

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KAZZ MICHAEL MARSEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kazz Michael Marsey of Blue Springs, Missouri. Kazz is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1246, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kazz has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kazz has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kazz Michael Marsey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH VINCE WALTERS FOR COACHING THE NEWARK HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Vince Walters showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Vince Walters was a leader and mentor for the Newark High School Boys' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Walters has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Vince Walters for leading the Newark High School Boys' Basketball Team to winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. KLEIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to submit a record of how I would have

voted on Thursday, April 3, when I was unavoidably detained. Had I voted, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 159.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, abuses of the earmark process by Members of both parties demonstrate the need for reform. However, earmarks are hardly the most serious problem facing this country. In fact, many, if not most, of the problems with earmarks can be fixed by taking simple steps to bring greater transparency to the appropriations process. While I support reforms designed to shine greater sunlight on the process by which Members seek earmarks, I fear that some of my colleagues have forgotten that the abuses of the earmarking process are a symptom of the problems with Washington, not the cause. The root of the problem is an out-of-control Federal budget. I am also concerned that some reforms proposed by critics of earmarking undermine the separation of powers by eroding Congress's constitutional role in determining how Federal funds are spent.

Contrary to popular belief, adding earmarks to a bill does not increase Federal spending. Earmarks are added to appropriations legislation after the total funding levels have been agreed on. Therefore, earmarks simply allocate Federal money that Congress has already agreed should be spent. Thus, adding or subtracting earmarks from legislation does not increase or reduce Federal spending by even one penny.

Since reforming, limiting, or even eliminating earmarks does nothing to reduce Federal spending, I have regarded the battle over earmarks as a distraction from the real issue—the need to reduce the size of government. Recently, opponents of earmarks have embraced an approach to earmark reform that undermines the constitutional separation of powers by encouraging the President to issue an Executive order authorizing Federal agencies to disregard congressional earmarks placed in committee reports.

Since the President's Executive order would not reduce Federal spending, the practical result of such an Executive order would be to transfer power over the determination of how Federal funds are spent from Congress to unelected Federal bureaucrats. Since most earmarks are generated by requests from our constituents, including local elected officials such as mayors, this executive order has the practical effect of limiting taxpayers' ability to influence the ways the Federal Government spends tax dollars.

Madam Speaker, the drafters of the Constitution gave Congress the powers of the purse because the drafters feared that allowing the branch of government charged with

executing the laws to also write the Federal budget would concentrate too much power in one branch of government. The founders correctly viewed the separation of the lawmaking and law-enforcement powers as a vital safeguard of liberty. Whenever the President blatantly disregards orders from Congress as to how Federal funds should be spent, he is undermining the constitutional separation of powers.

Congress has already all but ceded its authority to declare war to the executive branch. Now we are giving away our power of the purse. Madam Speaker, the logical conclusion of the arguments that it is somehow illegitimate for Members of Congress to control the disbursement of Federal funds in their district is that Congress should only meet one week a year to appropriate a lump sum to be given to the President for him to allocate to the Federal Government as he sees fit.

Madam Speaker, all Members should support efforts to bring greater transparency to the earmarking process. However, we must not allow earmarking reform to distract us from what should be our main priority—restricting Federal spending by returning the Government to its constitutional limitations. I also urge my colleagues not to allow the current hysteria over earmarks to justify further erosion of our constitutional authority to control the Federal budget.

NATIONAL MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of H. Res 265, honoring military children during "National Month of the Military Child." While we understand and praise the personal sacrifices our brave men and women make in defending our great nation, we frequently forget about the sacrifices and burdens that children and families face while their parents are serving in the United States Armed Forces.

In peacetime, children of military parents bear the burdens of numerous military moves, both overseas and in the United States. In these moves, they cope with attending several different schools, losing good friends, leaving good communities, and typically have parents who cannot attend their sporting events, music recitals, and other after school activities. The military duty is a 24–7, 365-day commitment for the soldier and also their families.

In wartime, children of deployed military parents spend every day living in fear of the unknown. When will my mom or dad return? Will they be severely injured? Will they be killed? In years past, military children often faced one deployment lasting anywhere from 4 to 18 months. However, in today's long Global War

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

on Terror, many military members and families are facing their second, third, or fourth deployments.

The impacts of these additional and prolonged separations are not clear and may have lasting adverse effects on military children and families. When military members return from deployments, we focus on the impact of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; we also need to study and analyze the impacts of traumas created by war and deployments on the children of these military parents.

The children of military members play a vital role in the defense of this country. Their contributions and sacrifices have not gone unnoticed. This is our opportunity as a Nation to recognize their dedication and support. We honor our brave men and women in the Armed Forces who have dedicated their lives to defending our freedoms, but we must also pay great tribute to the children and the families of soldiers, who bear the burden of their tremendous sacrifice.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important resolution and am pleased that today the House recognizes the role of the military children.

HONORING MICHAEL ANTHONY
LIERMANN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Anthony Liermann of Kansas City, Missouri. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1009, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Anthony Liermann for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
COACH JEFF BROWN FOR COACH-
ING THE NEWARK HIGH SCHOOL
BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO
WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I
STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPION-
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HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Jeff Brown showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Jeff Brown was a leader and mentor for the Newark High School Boys' Basketball Team; and

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Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Jeff Brown for leading the Newark High School Boys' Basketball Team to winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JAMES AND
ALICE RAE SMALLEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor my good friends James and Alice Rae Smalley by entering their names in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. I rise today to honor James and Alice Rae Smalley for their contributions to the Southern Nevada community, and commend them on receiving the honor of having an elementary school named after them in the Clark County School District.

James began his teaching career within the school district in 1949 where he taught math at the Fifth Street School in Las Vegas. He later transferred to the Jefferson School in North Las Vegas where he taught Social Studies. After teaching at Jefferson, James taught at Henderson Junior High where he taught for 29 years. While teaching, he served as the President of the Henderson Teachers Association, and continued to be an active member throughout the Henderson community. James was also active in Nevada politics and along with his wife Alice Rae, served as campaign managers for former Governor Grant Sawyer and Ralph Denton. In 1970, Jim successfully ran for Nevada State Assembly where he served on the Assembly Education and Government Affairs Committees.

Alice Rae was born and raised in Caliente, Nevada where she attended the University of Colorado and obtained a bachelor's degree in nursing, becoming the first member of her family to go to college. Along with her husband, Alice Rae was politically active within the State of Nevada, and served two terms on the Nevada State Welfare Board during Governor Grant Sawyer's term. In 1962, she became a nurse for Paradise Elementary, Ullom Elementary, and Whitney School. She dedicated much of her time to help define the role of school nurses within the Clark County School District. She worked for the Clark County School District until she retired in 1988.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the accomplishments of James and Alice Rae Smalley for their dedication to the Southern Nevada Community. I commend them for their contributions and would like to congratulate them on an elementary school being named in their honor by the Clark County School District.

HONORING DADA J.P. VASWANI

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dada J.P. Vaswani, the spiritual head of Sadhu Vaswani Mission in Pune, India. Dada visits my Congressional District from India on a mission to bring peace, grace and compassion. It is with these qualities that he imparts through word and action to thousands of people in countries all over the world.

Today, Dada J.P. Vaswani is the spiritual head of The Sadhu Vaswani Mission, and also the inspiring force behind its myriad activities.

Dada Vaswani is universally acclaimed as a humanitarian, philosopher, educator, acclaimed writer, powerful orator and spiritual leader. He has been a voice for animal rights and has captivated the hearts of millions worldwide. In the eyes of many, Dada is a man who symbolizes the true spirit of India as a harbinger of love, peace and hope.

At a time when this country knows all too well the devastation of war, Dada J.P. Vaswani is a force of peace. I rise to honor all peace-loving people, and hope that the example of Dada Vaswani will prevail around the world.

NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES
LIVES ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, as an OB-GYN I take a back seat to no one when it comes to caring about the health of newborn children. However, as a Representative who has taken an oath to uphold the Constitution, I cannot support legislation, no matter how much I sympathize with the legislation's stated goals, that exceeds the Constitutional limitations on Federal power or in any way threatens the liberty of the American people. Since S. 1858 violates the Constitution, and may have unintended consequences that will weaken the American health care system and further erode medical privacy, I must oppose it.

S. 1858 gives the Federal bureaucracy the authority to develop a model newborn screening program. Madam Speaker, the Federal Government lacks both the constitutional authority and the competence to develop a newborn screening program adequate for a nation as large and diverse as the United States. Some will say that the program is merely a guide for local hospitals. However, does anyone seriously doubt that, whatever the flaws contained in the model eventually adopted by the Federal Government, almost every hospital in the country will scrap their own newborn screening programs in favor of the Federal model? After all, no hospital will want to risk losing Federal funding because they did not adopt the "federally approved" plan for newborn screening. Thus, this bill takes another step toward the nationalization of health care.

As the Federal Government assumes more control over health care, medical privacy has increasingly come under assault. Those of us in the medical profession should be particularly concerned about policies allowing Government officials and State-favored interests to access our medical records without our consent. After all, patient confidentiality is the basis of the trust that must underline a positive physician-patient relationship. Yet my review of S. 1858 indicates the drafters of the legislation made no effort to ensure these newborn screening programs do not violate the privacy rights of parents and children.

In fact, by directing Federal bureaucrats to create a contingency plan for newborn screening in the event of a "public health" disaster, this bill may lead to further erosions of medical privacy. As recent history so eloquently illustrates, politicians are more than willing to take, and people are more than willing to cede, liberty during times of "emergency." Thus, most people will gladly sacrifice their families' medical privacy if they are told it is necessary to protect them from a Government-declared health emergency, while the Federal Government will be very unlikely to relinquish its new powers when the emergency passes.

I am also skeptical, to say the least, that a top-down Federal plan to screen any part of the population will effectively help meet the challenges facing the health care system in the event of a real public emergency. State and local Governments working together with health care providers, can better come up with effective ways to deal with public health emergencies than can any Federal bureaucracy. It is for these reasons, Madam Speaker, that I oppose S. 1858.

RECOGNIZING THE TREMENDOUS SERVICE THAT MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES HAVE GIVEN TO THE NATION

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1020, a resolution recognizing the tremendous service that members of the Armed Forces, especially those who have been wounded in combat, have given.

As an original cosponsor of this resolution, I want to thank the lead sponsor, Mr. WELCH, for bringing this resolution to the floor and his leadership on this important issue. I also want to thank Mr. WALBERG and Mr. HIGGINS for joining Mr. WELCH and me in spearheading this effort to honor those who have given so much in service to our country.

Only 1 percent of Americans serve in the military. Only 1 percent have answered the call to arms in defense of our Nation, our values, and our freedoms. To this 1 percent, we owe so much; so much that can never be fully repaid.

Throughout our history, many Americans have given the ultimate sacrifice for this Nation, and many more have had their minds and bodies wounded for the same cause. In the current Global War on Terror, around 30,000 servicemembers have been wounded,

including almost 400 from Kansas. Their lives and those of their families have been dramatically impacted.

I have had the honor to meet with many of these wounded warriors, both in Kansas and at Walter Reed. Though their lives have been forever changed, they continue their commitment to duty, country, and family. They are a great inspiration to me and those who are blessed to meet them.

Every American has a responsibility to thank these brave Americans. We must vocally honor them. We must honor them by providing excellent medical care, access to quality jobs and education, support for their families, and the resources to live fulfilling and productive lives. But, we also need to remember to say "thank you." "Thank you" for your service and your sacrifice. This resolution is just one more way the House of Representatives can say "thank you" to our Nation's veterans.

In addition to this resolution, Misterys WELCH, WALBERG, HIGGINS and I are helping organize an April 16th reception for Members of Congress and wounded warriors from Walter Reed. This reception will provide Members of Congress the honor to personally meet with these brave heroes. I encourage all my colleagues to attend. This reception will encourage you, humble you, and challenge you to push harder in support of our veterans.

We can never fully honor or repay the sacrifice made by our Nation's veterans. Our veterans deserve so much, and, in comparison, we have so little to offer. But, I hope that this resolution and upcoming reception will take a step in the right direction. I ask that all my colleagues support this important resolution.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTION OF NURSES

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the noble and essential role nurses play in providing quality health care across our Nation.

Our Nation's health care system is complex and every day people with all types of needs are cared for by qualified and professional nurses. Every individual can remember an experience when someone they loved needed health care and a nurse was the first person by their side providing compassionate and essential care. My wife, a registered nurse works on the front lines of caring for Americans and like so many nurses, her devotion extends beyond the workforce; as she goes home every day after work and is just as thoughtful and attentive to the needs of our family. The tireless efforts made by nurses to provide nurture and solace are an inspiration to all.

A growing number of nurses are essential to ensuring all people receive quality care; and our Nation's public health infrastructure has the professionals necessary to respond to natural and manmade disasters. The Department of Health and Human Services projects the current ten percent vacancy rates in registered nurses will grow to 36 percent by the year 2020, representing more than one million unfilled jobs. We must make sure to provide strong Congressional leadership, unflagging

support, and the Federal funding necessary to ensure the United States continues to maintain a steady supply of nurses to care for the patients of today and tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, in honor of their unwavering commitment, dedication, and selflessness, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring nurses and their exemplary service to our community and our country.

CONGRATULATING TEMPLE ISRAEL OF LAWRENCE

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Temple Israel of Lawrence, New York, on its 100th anniversary.

Temple Israel is the oldest temple on Long Island. It was founded in 1908 as Temple Israel of Far Rockaway. The congregation moved to its current location in 1930. A new school center was created in 1948 to better accommodate the educational needs of the congregation and then again in 1966 with new social facilities. Temple Israel continues to thrive to this day, as the religious and nursery schools have unusually large enrollments.

The Temple reaches beyond just the "Five Towns" and extends around the world. Temple Israel participates in a number of interfaith and cross-cultural programs. There are exchange programs, such as an American Jewish and Italian Catholic exchange program with the Vatican, which help bring about greater understanding and compromise among the participants.

I applaud these efforts of the congregation because I, too, am a strong believer in bringing people with different backgrounds together to find common ground. I participated in the Women's Democracy Fund to help bring women together in Northern Ireland to contribute to the peace process. The program has more recently moved to bringing Israeli and Palestinian women together as an effort to also help bring about peace in that region.

The Temple Israel congregation is ably led by Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum and Cantor Galina Paliy. Rabbi Rosenbaum is the spiritual and education leader of Temple Israel. He is well known on Long Island and throughout the American rabbinate. He works across the international arena in building bridges of understanding and compromise between the American Jewish community and Jewish communities and foreign governments around the world and between Jews and other religions. Rabbi Rosenbaum also worked with first responders and victim's families at Ground Zero following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. I am glad to hear that Rabbi Rosenbaum will be joining me in Washington, DC, later this month in welcoming Pope Benedict XVI on his first papal visit to the United States.

Temple Israel of Lawrence is part of a rich Jewish history in the United States. In 2003, Congress passed H. Con. Res. 106, which recognizes and honors America's Jewish community on the occasion of its 350th anniversary. The first known Jews arrived from Brazil in 1654. They established the first Jewish community in New York City. Jews have contributed in so many ways to American society,

including civic, social, economic, military, and cultural life. I am glad to see that Temple Israel Lawrence has played a large role in that extensive Jewish American history.

Once again, I wish to extend my sincerest congratulations and warm wishes to Temple Israel of Lawrence on its 100th anniversary and look forward to another successful 100 years.

POLAR BEAR PROTECTION

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to show my dismay that it has been 3 months since the Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS, missed an important deadline to determine whether they would give the polar bear protections under the Endangered Species Act.

Naysayers argue that the polar bear population is not at risk, but the studies show that an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 polar bears worldwide are threatened with "losing their habitat over the next 50 years" because of global warming and melting sea ice.

The U.S. Geological Survey, USGS, predicts that without action, "11 of the 19 subpopulations will be extinct by the middle of this century, with an additional three subpopulations vanishing shortly thereafter."

That same USGS study showed that Arctic melting is occurring faster than any scientific models have previously predicted.

Incredibly, at the same time we are seeing these sobering scientific reports, the Department of Interior has moved forward with leasing oil and gas exploration rights for almost 30 million acres of the Polar Bear Seas. Just off the northwest coast of Alaska, this environmentally sensitive area is home to about 16,000 polar bears.

This is not the time for drilling in prime polar bear habitat. It is the time for protecting polar bears and their habitat under the Endangered Species Act. FWS should act today to list the polar bear as a threatened, or even an endangered, species.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, on April 8, 2008, I was inadvertently delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on the following: rollcall No. 161 on passage of H.J. Res. 70, congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial; rollcall No. 162 on passage of H.R. 2464, the Wakefield Act; and rollcall No. 163 on final passage of S. 793, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACKDOWN IN TIBET

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1077 and to speak about the alarming human rights situation in Tibet and the People's Republic of China.

In recent weeks, we have seen citizens of the world rising up against the Chinese Government's crackdown in Tibet and requesting that the communist regime end human rights abuses. The crackdown by the Chinese Government resulted in more than 100 deaths of Tibetans and the detention of thousands more. The Chinese government has also impeded the access of international journalists to Tibetan areas of China. It is time for this body to stand with these protests and act to protect Tibetans and Chinese citizens from further violence.

Despite the upcoming 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, the Government's human rights record remains poor. Tibetans are not the only victims of China's human rights abuses. We must not forget the persecution of Christians, Uyghur Muslims, Falun Gong, democracy advocates, AIDS victims, journalists, and lawyers in China. There have been numerous abuses in China tied to the upcoming Olympic Games, including media and Internet censorship, sentences on charges of state subversion of government critics and forced evictions. Human rights advocates are being imprisoned for criticizing the Government's human rights record.

The Chinese Government wants to use the 2008 Summer Olympic Games to showcase the progress their country has made. It is my hope that the Chinese Government will take immediate and substantial strides to resolve the situation in Tibet and to address domestic human rights issues in China. Until that time, the voices of this Congress and the world should continue to apply pressure on the Chinese Government. The Summer Olympic Games offer the international community the opportunity to speak up against ongoing abuses in China.

Human rights should be our first priority and our first requirement when we engage with countries. It is our duty to use our economic and diplomatic leverage to make sure that fundamental rights are protected in the world.

I urge my colleagues in Congress to support H. Res. 1077, which calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and to engage in dialogue with the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama's movement is not radical, and it is not violent. It is time for the Chinese to end their brutal treatment of the Tibetan people. It is time for the Tibetan people to experience the inalienable freedoms and human rights that all free peoples should enjoy. Again, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1077.

HONORING KYLE CONNOR COOPER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Cooper Connor of Kansas City, Missouri. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1155, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle Cooper Connor for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH BRENT FICKES FOR COACHING THE NEWARK HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

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Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Brent Fickes for leading the Newark High School Boys' Basketball Team to winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING THE TENURE OF DR. EMILIO T. GONZALEZ AT UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and spotlight the extraordinary leadership Dr. Emilio T. Gonzalez demonstrated while Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, USCIS.

Since his confirmation in late 2005, Director Gonzalez managed an organization of more than 17,000 Federal and contract employees responsible for the accurate, efficient, and secure processing of immigration applications.

During his tenure, USCIS underwent a period of unprecedented growth, revitalization, and expansion. The agency sharpened its fraud detection and national security efforts through the creation of the National Security and Records Verification Directorate and the deployment of Fraud Detection National Security officers to USCIS offices. The Nation's signature employment authorization program, E-Verify, grew to include 55,000 employer participants and has verified the work status of more than 3 million new employees. An ambitious facilities revitalization program was initiated by Director Gonzalez, with the goal to renovate or replace nearly 40 USCIS facilities over 3 years.

Director Gonzalez is a shining example of the contributions and excellence that the Hispanic community has brought, and will continue to bring, to the service of our great Nation.

Our grateful Nation is proud of his service, and I wish him the best in all his future endeavors. We will surely miss him dearly.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, today, we mark the anniversary of one of the darkest moments in American history.

For the thousands of soldiers who were surrendered to enemy forces on April 9, 1942, the years that have passed since have been filled with memories of what occurred that day and in the hundreds of days that followed. Starvation. Torture. Forced work. Captivity. Death.

But in the 66 years since, the events at Bataan have conjured other memories for the rest of us. Bravery. Sacrifice. And an unbreakable demonstration of courage.

"The Battling Bastards of Bataan," they were christened by Frank Hewlett, one of the last journalists to report on the troops before they were surrendered. For 4 months they fought, battling daily against the enemy, against illness, and against time. And when there was no fight left, when the time for surrender was upon them, they were alone. Neither planes in the skies nor boats in the sea appeared, ready to give the boost of firepower that would turn the tides. Instead, the men at Bataan laid down their weapons and walked into a hell that would last over 3 years.

In TIME magazine, the surrender at Bataan was reported under the headline, Death of an American Illusion. "These U.S. soldiers had stumbled ragged, sleepless and half-starved through the last days of the most humiliating defeat in U.S. history," wrote the correspondent. "In no previous battle had so many U.S. fighting men gone down before a foreign enemy, and seldom had any beaten U.S. soldiers been in such pitiable condition—believing until the last hour of destruction that their country could and surely would send

them aid. The U.S. had known the end was near. But it had not, could not, beforehand, taste the taste and smell the smell of crushing defeat."

For those of us from New Mexico, the events at Bataan strike home particularly hard because of the involvement of the 200th and 515th regiments. These New Mexico National Guardsmen came from all parts of the State and from all walks of life. On the 12 columns here we see their names and we lament at the sheer number who shipped overseas and never returned. They came to serve and they gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country.

We also must take note at the number of Hispanic soldiers who served, fought, and died. Their service during a time of discrimination, both in the military and in the public, poignantly epitomizes the struggle they faced in being treated with equality, with respect, and with dignity. For those who remained unequivocally devoted to their Nation even while being treated as second-class citizens, we salute you and promise that we will not forget your service.

As a token of our remembrance, earlier this year I introduced legislation that would award the Bataan prisoners of war with the Congressional Gold Medal. This award, long past due, would be a fitting tribute and would forever signify the thanks of our Nation to the soldiers who served with honor and with courage.

Sadly, we are no longer graced with the presence of many of the original heroes who struggled and survived the ordeals of Bataan. The ravages of captivity and the passage of time have taken many of them from us and we are now left with their story and with their memory. Future generations of Americans will hear the story of Bataan second-hand, never able to meet a soldier who still bears the scars of torture or who still remembers the joy of liberation and returning home. For now, however, with those who are still here and who can still tell their story, we must grant them the widest forum and the most amplified voice to ensure that this tale of courage, this legend of the Battling Bastards of Bataan, is shared as far and wide as possible. We cannot, we must not, forget what happened at Bataan and our actions of honoring these soldiers will never meet the great sacrifice they gave on the battlefield so many years ago.

To those who suffered and who never returned, we honor your memory.

To those who have since passed, we remember your story.

And to those with us today, we praise your courage and give you our thanks.

RECOGNIZING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWIN OAKS ES- TATE

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for our friends in Taiwan as they celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Twin Oaks estate here in Washington, DC.

Twin Oaks estate was built in 1888 by Gardiner Greene Hubbard, the founder of the Na-

tional Geographic Society. This beautiful home was built as a summer residence for his family. Mr. Hubbard had two daughters, Grace and Mabel. Mabel later lived at Twin Oaks with her husband, Alexander Graham Bell.

Years later, Grace inherited the property. In 1937, she rented the property to the Republic of China's Government to serve as the ambassador's residence. A decade later, the Republic of China purchased the property and it served as the official residence of each successive Republic of China ambassador.

After extensive renovation that brought it back to its original elegance in the early 1980s, Twin Oaks was recognized and named as a national historic site in Washington, DC. Over the past two decades many functions have been held at Twin Oaks and today the estate continues to stand proudly as a symbol of the strong friendship between the United States and Taiwan.

Madam Speaker, the people of Taiwan live in a vibrant democracy and, as such, Taiwan has become a beacon of freedom and an engine of prosperity in the Pacific region. As we celebrate Twin Oaks' long and vibrant history, we are reminded of our strong ties, abiding mutual relations, and deep friendship with Taiwan.

CYTOLOGY PROFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of The Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act, H.R. 1237, which would modernize and improve a Federal program aimed at promoting quality cervical cancer screening. Pathologists are already required by Federal law under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988, CLIA, to comply with extensive quality assurance standards for Pap tests. The bill would complement CLIA by establishing a Federal continuing medical education, CME, requirement for pathologists and laboratory professionals who examine Pap tests to screen for cervical cancer.

I have been a long-time advocate of medical technology and education advancements. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to tour the Pathology Lab at St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, DE to get a first hand look at the practice and techniques used in Delaware. During the tour, the doctors and medical staff highlighted the need for H.R. 1237.

Regular screening can make all the difference in addressing cervical cancer and early detection can save lives. Women need access to the latest in Pap test science, principles of patient safety and technological advances such as computer-assisted screening, digital imaging, and HPV typing. Over the years, this educational requirement will also accommodate advances in science and technology without going through the long process of making changes in regulation.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support passage of The Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act, H.R. 1237.

CONGRATULATING MS. TRUDE TRUDELL FOR RECEIVING THE NAACP TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Holloman Middle School teacher Ms. Trude Trudell. Ms. Trudell's hard work and dedication have earned her the Otero County, New Mexico, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, Teacher of the Year award. It is her devotion to her students that earned her this tremendous honor. Good teachers like Ms. Trudell inspire the young minds of this country and shape our youth.

Ms. Trudell was a member of the military before becoming a teacher. Yet she has said that teaching is the toughest job she has ever held.

Ms. Trudell's work has made a tremendous impact on the lives of students in Otero County. An education is an open door to the future for our children, and teachers have a key role in helping open that door for our children. Without great educators like Ms. Trudell, our children would not be prepared to enter the economy of the future. It is also teachers like Ms. Trudell who take pride in their work and use their own ambition to drive students to succeed.

This award is a reflection of Ms. Trudell's commitment to making an impact on the lives of each and everyone of her students. Her top priority is preparing her students for the future, and for that on behalf of the people of the New Mexico, I want to thank her for her service. Teachers like Ms. Trudell give us all hope for a better future for America.

HONORING JOSHUA DEAN SLUGANTZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Dean Slugantz of Kansas City, MO. Joshua is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1155, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua Dean Slugantz for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH T.J. SOMERS FOR COACHING THE NEWARK HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach T.J. Somers showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, T.J. Somers was a leader and mentor for the Newark High School Boys' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Somers has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach T.J. Somers for leading the Newark High School Boys' Basketball Team to winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

TRIBUTE TO ANHUESER-BUSCH COMPANIES FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT OF MAKING FORTUNE MAGAZINE'S LIST OF AMERICA'S MOST ADMIRABLE COMPANIES

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay congratulations to Anheuser-Busch Companies for their exemplary achievement in being named first among beverage companies in Fortune magazine's America's Most Admired Companies. Anheuser-Busch has been headquartered in Saint Louis, Missouri, since its establishment in 1860, and has successfully served the community since that time. I am proud to represent Anheuser-Busch's dedicated employees in the Saint Louis community who work hard to continually raise the bar for beverage companies worldwide.

Anheuser-Busch topped Fortune magazine's list of global beverage companies for the fifth consecutive year, rating first overall and first in eight of the nine categories considered: quality of products and services, people management, quality of management, innovation, social responsibility, financial soundness, long-term investment, and use of corporate assets.

Anheuser-Busch also has several other distinctions in this global list. Among every company surveyed, which was more than 350 global companies spanning 26 industries, Anheuser-Busch ranked number one for quality of products and services and number two for social responsibility. Anheuser-Busch should also be applauded for its efforts to promote diversity in its workforce, as well as in the communities that it serves. Their commitment to being in the community, as well as of

the community, has led Anheuser-Busch to support community-based organizations in efforts to inform, advance, and sustain their diverse communities.

Contributing to the community and social responsibility have been very important actions for Anheuser-Busch since the company's beginnings, and the organization has quickly become a global industry leader in promoting responsibility. Since 1982, Anheuser-Busch and its nationwide network of more than 600 wholesalers have spent more than \$675 million on developing more than two dozen alcohol awareness and education programs and initiatives designed to help prevent all forms of alcohol abuse, including illegal underage drinking and drunk driving. Working together with parents, educators, State and Federal regulators, law enforcement officials, and many others, Anheuser-Busch has continued its long-standing commitment to being part of the solution to these issues.

Anheuser-Busch has also dedicated its facilities to operating in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner. At the Saint Louis area Anheuser-Busch brewery, more than 99 percent of the solid waste that is created is recycled. In addition, brewery water use has been cut by nearly 20 percent since 1990 and by more than 7 percent in the last 5 years, saving 4.7 billion liters of water.

In times of crisis for the American people, Anheuser-Busch has established a reputation of being part of the recovery by providing a helping hand to our friends in their time of need. This tradition of giving began in 1906, when Aldolphus Busch donated funds to help San Francisco earthquake victims. More recently, Anheuser-Busch has donated drinking water and made monetary donations to the American Red Cross to aid in hurricane relief efforts in the Gulf Coast in 2005, as well as to wildfire relief efforts in California in 2007 and to tornado relief efforts in the South earlier this year. Since 1988, Anheuser-Busch has provided nearly 63.5 million cans of drinking water to various relief efforts.

From these many examples, it is clear that Anheuser-Busch has rightfully earned the distinction of being named first among beverage companies as Fortune magazine's America's Most Admired Companies. I am proud to have worked directly with the dedicated employees of Anheuser-Busch in both Saint Louis, Missouri, as well as here in Washington, DC. I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Anheuser-Busch for this extraordinary accomplishment and for their continued dedication to serving the American people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 161, H.J. Res. 70, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall 162, H.R. 2464, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall 163, S. 793, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on April 3, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from the House due to a family illness.

If had been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 159, a motion by Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS of Washington to recommit H.R. 4847 to the Committee on Science and Technology with instructions.

I would have also voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 160, final passage of H.R. 4847, a bill to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACK-DOWN IN TIBET

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, the United States and the People's Republic of China, PRC, are friends and partners in this international community. I truly believe that the governments of both nations endeavor to support the wellbeing of not only their people, but also of those around the world. Like individuals, governments learn from experience, and learn from the experiences of others. And like individuals, perhaps with more frequency and greater impact, governments make errors in judgment. In just our short history, the United States government and its people have made more than our fair share of mistakes. We have endured social strife at home with class and racial warfare, and our Federal, State and local governments have played their ugly part, from voting rights to segregation and violence. And throughout this century, our Nation knew that the world was watching. During World War II, all eyes were on America, waiting for its actions to meet its rhetoric of freedom. It was in this backdrop that our grassroots civil rights movement pushed our society towards our own American ideals. We have learned many lessons from our own history on how to create and maintain a peaceful society, prioritizing the protection and promotion of human rights—there are many lessons to share, and many yet to learn. it

As the Olympic Summer Games near, the spotlight is now on our friend China and on its actions. China has made inroads as a new member of the global community, as their economy becomes increasingly integrated into the world economy. The groundwork for greater freedom is slowly developing, as it makes incremental gains to strengthen the rule of law. There comes a time, however, when greater scrutiny calls for greater action. As friends, I have always believed that constructive criticism should be encouraged. That is why today, I rise in support for H. Res. 1077. Friends do not always agree with each other's actions, but I know that the U.S. and China share some common values and concerns, including the wellbeing of our peoples and stability and peace in our Nations.

The Chinese government is concerned over the instability and ethnic tensions that have erupted after the protests of March 10, 2008. The widespread arrests and detentions of Tibetans and harsh statements by the Chinese government against the Dalai Lama, however, have not helped the situation, but instead have fueled the fires of resentment. Certainly, rioters and those who have perpetrated violent crimes should be tried and punished. Their departure from the doctrine of nonviolence as supported by the Dalai Lama and other great civil rights leaders, such as César Chávez, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, has weakened their voice. To further social stability and sustained harmony, and to decrease resentment and anger among the Tibetan people, I believe that it is of utmost importance to differentiate between those peaceful protestors and those who have turned to violence—violence reported by Chinese and international journalists.

Despite these reports, the government nevertheless removed all international journalists from the Tibetan Autonomous Region. It is difficult to know exactly what had transpired in the Tibetan areas, as well as the current situation in the region, because of this unwarranted expulsion. In the end, there were conflicting reports on the nature of the protests in China and on the numbers of those injured and killed by not only China's security forces, but also by certain Tibetan protestors. It is essential that journalists and international monitors have unfettered access to Tibetan areas to shed light on the situation on the ground.

Finally, to create a harmonious society, all members must feel a part of the process, thereby developing trust and confidence among all parties. When racial tensions have arisen in the United States, the best of us have acknowledged mistakes, embraced them, and worked toward solutions, together. In the same vain, I firmly believe that direct dialogue between the government of the People's Republic of China and His Holiness the Dalai Lama is necessary for any meaningful, short- and long-term solution to this dire situation. Previous rounds of dialogue between the PRC and representatives of the Dalai Lama have resulted in an apparent misunderstanding of the Dalai Lama's concept of Tibetan "autonomy." While there are some proponents for an independent Tibet within the Tibetan community, the Dalai Lama has repeatedly shared his support for an autonomous Tibetan region within the governance of China that ensures basic freedoms for the Tibetan people with protections for their culture, language, and religion. The Chinese government should take advantage of his moderate position and considerable influence on the Tibetan population, and engage in peaceful, direct talks with the Dalai Lama. In fact, China's Regional Ethnic Autonomy Law has already laid the foundation by guaranteeing the rights of ethnic minorities to administer their internal affairs. This foundation should not be discarded, but built upon with further assurances and implementations of these guarantees.

It is in the spirit of friendship, mutual understanding, and shared lessons that I rise to support H. Res. 1077. We know governments can make mistakes, and we can all work together to restore peace during times of social tension. The award of the Olympic bid to China is a global acknowledgement, a global celebration, of China's membership in the

global community. As the Olympic torch is introduced in San Francisco for its only appearance in the United States, I hope that protestors and bystanders show their respect for the Olympic Summer Games and refrain from violence. As an advocate for human rights and a staunch supporter of our First Amendment rights, I admire the courage and conviction exhibited by peaceful protestors. Finally, I hope that China will use this opportunity of greater scrutiny to speak directly with the Dalai Lama to build the trust and confidence necessary to achieve the harmony it seeks.

HONORING JOHN EVERETT BIVEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John Everett Biven of Liberty, MO. John is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 2418, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending John Everett Biven for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH MARK OBERHOLTZER FOR COACHING THE NEWARK HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Mark Oberholtzer showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Mark Oberholtzer was a leader and mentor for the Newark High School Boys' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Oberholtzer has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Mark Oberholtzer for leading the Newark High School Boys' Basketball Team to winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

HONORING THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR CREDIT COUNSELING 2008 FINANCIAL LITERACY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, NFCC, financial literacy poster contest held among students to raise awareness of financial issues.

The winners include: National winner, Harrison Noh of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; Elementary School winner, Christopher Saker of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; Middle School winner, Levi Travis of U.S. Army Base, Seoul, South Korea; and High School winner, Victoria Guerra of Crowley, Texas.

I applaud the efforts to bring financial literacy to students by engaging them in proactive learning and knowledgeable ideas about how to manage money effectively. The skill of managing money wisely and effectively is something that needs to be taught early in life. The earlier a person knows the importance of good investments, solid savings, and sound purchasing, the better able that person is to successfully manage their money throughout the remainder of their lives.

With the current economic conditions, there is no better time than now to educate our youth on how to be financially savvy. The poster winners exhibited this knowledge in a creative and engaging manner as they articulated the contest's theme of "financial responsibility begins with me."

It is my honor to recognize the financial literacy poster winners for such an outstanding job. Through their artistic abilities, it is obvious that these winners have taken it to heart that financial responsibility truly begins with each of them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on April 8, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall No. 161–163.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 161—"yea"—Congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial.

Rollcall No. 162—"yea"—The Wakefield Act.

Rollcall No. 163—"yea"—Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF 16-YEAR-OLD ALEXIS MONROE IN RAISING FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF AMBULANCES FOR THE LEBANESE RED CROSS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, Alexis Monroe, a 16-year-old, student at Glenelg Country School in Ellicott City, MD, raised over \$5,300 to go toward ambulance purchases for the Lebanese Red Cross at her school's annual International Dinner and Fashion Show Fund-raiser in 2007 and 2008. I would like to commend Alexis for her efforts as a young leader assisting a humanitarian cause that is supported by the American Red Cross. I would like to thank Alexis for her efforts, and I am submitting Alexis' speeches from 2007 and 2008 for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that her work can receive recognition as example of U.S. philanthropy to aid those in a far away land who need assistance.

LEBANESE RED CROSS PRESENTATION

(By Alexis Claire Monroe)

One of the great things about Glenelg is the sense of community one feels. When crises occur outside our own community, it's important to help and support the family and friends across the seas—as they are really just an extension of our own community. In planning this event, we learned that there are no less than 8 families of Lebanese descent here at tiny GCS—including 2 faculty—many of whom still have family and friends in Lebanon. We had four generations in our family touched by this crisis.

On July 1, 2006, my great-aunt and uncle visited our family in Lebanon. Great-grandmother Fawaz had turned 97. They were so happy to see how Lebanon had recovered from the civil war and 28 years of occupation. The streets were safe, downtown Beirut had been reconstructed, the hotels and restaurants were filled with tourists.

On July 10th, they left for a short visit to Petra, Jordan to see a 2000 year old temple that is still being excavated by their friends from Brown University. They planned to return to Lebanon on July 14th in time for my great-uncle's birthday celebration which was to be at an elegant restaurant on the harbor near Byblos.

Early July 13th, the Israelis bombed the newly finished Beirut Airport along with more than 60 bridges, all superhighways, and all ports. The combined naval, land and air blockade made travel impossible.

My great-aunt and uncle were stuck in Jordan for 10 days before they could get a flight out leaving most of their belongings behind in Lebanon. During that time, they watched, in horror, the TV broadcast of the destruction of Lebanon's infrastructure and the displacement of 800,000 Lebanese (almost 25% of the population) from their homes, half of those being children; 1,300 Lebanese were killed and 3,200 injured.

The use of force against innocent Lebanese was excessive and prolonged and destroyed over 10 years of reconstruction and re-investment efforts. Many people are still homeless and hungry and need assistance.

One of the primary sources of aid is the Lebanese Red Cross which is a non-partisan humanitarian organization whose volunteers provide medical treatment and relief services. The American Task Force on Lebanon

has a commitment from a private foundation to match contributions dollar for dollar—so GCS' gift will go twice as far.

On July 22, 2006, my great-grandmother died. My family was unable to bury her in our ancestral home in Joun because the roads and bridges had been destroyed. We hope that some day, she will be able to rest there in peace.

2008 LEBANESE RED CROSS PRESENTATION

(By Alexis Clarie Monroe)

The Lebanese Red Cross is a member of the International Red Cross. It provides the most comprehensive ambulance services in the country—often under very difficult circumstances. Wherever there is a need, the Lebanese Red Cross is visible, transporting victims to hospitals and often treating the wounded on the spot.

The Lebanese Red Cross has 6,000 volunteers and 43 Centers where it administers on-site first aid, provides transport, and training. In 2005 and 2006, the Lebanese Red Cross responded to over 166,000 emergency calls—sometimes even losing some of their own in the process. Unfortunately, crises continue to plague Lebanon.

The Lebanese Red Cross needs to replace old and damaged ambulances in order to be able to respond effectively. Last year, Glenelg Country School raised over \$2,300 which was contributed to the national campaign. The funds were matched by a private foundation so our contribution doubled to \$4,600.

This year, in addition to the foundation match, the American Red Cross has agreed to match donations, so the effect of our charity will be quadrupled: every \$10 becomes \$40; every \$25 becomes \$100; every \$50 becomes \$200.

Although we may have different talents and different abilities and different cultures, in the most basic sense, as humans, we are all equal in our humanity. We are born without knowledge of our faculties, and in this state we are all equal. And this inherent equality never leaves us—we cannot rid ourselves of that intrinsic humanity. Tonight is a time to recognize that equality, to give to others in need regardless of their race or religion, to be not only tolerant, but understanding. Tonight is a time to hope that the warfare, the bloodshed, the violence, in the Middle East will come to an end—tonight is a time to do whatever we can to aid the cause of peace.

HONORING TREVOR KORCHAK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trevor Paul Korchak of Kansas City, Missouri. Trevor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1260, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trevor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Trevor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Trevor Paul Korchak for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of

America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING NEWARK HIGH SCHOOL FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE NEWARK HIGH SCHOOL'S BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Newark High School has displayed incredible dedication to creating well-rounded students; and

Whereas, the Newark High School has been supportive of their athletes; and

Whereas, the Newark High School has broadened the abilities and skills of their athletes in the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, the Newark High School has always promoted sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate the Newark High School on supporting their Boys' Basketball team in winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous amount of support they have given to their athletes.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LATE CHARLES W. DURHAM OF OMAHA, NEBRASKA

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles W. Durham of Omaha, who died this past weekend at the age of 90.

Charles "Chuck" Durham was one of Omaha's outstanding residents. He was a community leader, visionary, philanthropist, businessman, and family man. He loved the City of Omaha, and all of us in the community loved Chuck and Margre Durham for their humble, genuine ways, in addition to their many gifts to our city.

Chuck Durham was raised in Ames, Iowa and attended Iowa State University, where he acquired two important assets—a degree in engineering and his wife and lifelong companion, Margre Henningson. He joined the Omaha-based engineering firm of Margre's dad and built the firm into one of America's largest engineering firms—HDR Inc.

HDR Inc., under the leadership of Chuck Durham, became an international powerhouse architectural and engineering firm, designing medical, military, and public works projects around the world. One area of expertise of the firm was designing hospitals and medical facilities, and many of our Omaha hospitals, notably Omaha Methodist Hospital were designed by HDR Inc.

The Durham Research Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in midtown Omaha is one of the most advanced medical research centers in the world, but it is just one

of the facilities in Omaha that benefited from the generosity of Chuck and Margre Durham. The Henry Doorly Zoo, the Durham Museum, and the Durham Science Center at the University of Nebraska—Omaha are among many facilities that Chuck Durham brought to reality. Finally, we will always remember the many photos of Chuck with his faithful dog, Tina, at his side—a lasting symbol of his love and concern for animals and their welfare.

Madam Speaker, Chuck's vision, energy, and the sharing of his resources with our community will be a part of Omaha forever. We mourn his passing, as we celebrate his life among us. Robyn and I extend our heartfelt sympathies and prayers to his children, Steve, Sunny, Lindy, and Debby during this time of loss.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, I was unavoidably detained due to a death in the family and thus I missed rollcall votes No. 161 through 163. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On roll vote No. 161, on H.J. Res. 70, Congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense mission of the United States, I would have voted "yea."

On roll vote No. 162, on H.R. 2464, the Wakefield Act, I would have voted "yea."

On roll vote No. 163, on S. 793, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY CANCER INSTITUTE IN WASHINGTON, DC, IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL GW CANCER INSTITUTE GALA

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, Whereas, the GW Cancer Institute provides groundbreaking biomedical and clinical research, high quality educational programs, and effective outreach and outstanding patient care to the Washington, DC, area; and

Whereas, the GW Cancer Institute seeks to understand why certain cancers disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, and to eliminate cancer disparities among minority citizens in the District; and

Whereas the GW Cancer Institute's Executive Director Dr. Steven Patierno cochaired the AACR-MICR, American Association for Cancer Research and Minorities in Cancer Research, national conference titled, "The

Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial and Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Under-served"; and

Whereas, the GW Cancer Institute is working to uncover genetic clues that help explain cancer disparities through a grant awarded by the National Cancer Institute's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities to establish a Genomics of Cancer Disparities Center; and

Whereas the GW Cancer Institute offers an Office of Cancer Prevention and Control, an Office of Cancer Education and Outreach and an Office of Cancer Survivorship;

Whereas, the GW Cancer Institute offers resources to citizens in the form of advocacy, support groups, education, outreach and clinical care;

Whereas, the GW Cancer Institute leads the Community-by-Community Cancer Control Campaign aimed at decreasing the cancer burden of Washington, DC;

Whereas, nearly 40 area churches participate in the GWCI's congregational cancer wellness initiative;

Whereas, the GWCI served as a founding member and leader of the DC Cancer Consortium;

Whereas the GW Cancer Institute's Dr. Paul Levine cochaired the Early Detection Subcommittee of the DC Cancer Consortium and Dr. Donald Henson serves as cochair of the DC Cancer Consortium;

Whereas the GW Cancer Institute, together with the GW Medical Faculty Associates, operates the GW Mammovan which offers digital mammography to more than 2,500 women per year;

Whereas, the GW Cancer Institute partners with local Washington DC based sports teams including the Washington Redskins and Washington Nationals, offering free prostate cancer screenings;

Whereas, the GW Cancer Institute works with local, Washington DC media partners, reaching thousands with messages about the importance of getting screened for prostate, breast and colorectal cancer.

Whereas, the GW Cancer Institute, working with the GW Medical Faculty Associates, has conducted free prostate cancer screenings for over 2000 men in 18 months, including nearly 700 DC area men at the 15th Annual NBC4 Health and Fitness Expo at the Washington, DC, Convention Center;

Whereas the GW Cancer Institute's Outreach Program works with barbershops in DC's Wards 4, 7 and 8 offering an outreach program in which lay health workers are trained in prostate cancer education and relay information to customers about the importance of early detection;

Whereas, the GW Cancer Institute recognizes leaders in the field every year at the annual GW Cancer Institute Gala;

Whereas, past GW Cancer Institute Gala recipients have included Carolyn R. "Bo" Aldige, the American Cancer Society, Lance Armstrong, Ray Michael Bridgewater, Zora Brown, Margaret M. Bush, Sam Donaldson, Andrew C. von Eschenbach, MD, First Lady of the Republic of Panama Vivian Vivian Fernandez de Torrijos, Harold P. Freeman, MD, Elmer Huerta, MD, LaSalle D. Leffall Jr., MD, FACS, the Honorable CONNIE MACK and Mrs. Priscilla Mack, Michael Milken, Nueva Vida, and Ellen Sigal, PhD;

Whereas, the GW Cancer Institute will honor Margaret Foti, MD, PhD, Robert Siegel,

MD and Mrs. Paula Siegel, RN; Sean Swarner, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu on May 3, 2008.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the U.S. House of Representatives—

(1) honors and salutes the accomplishments of the GW Cancer Institute and recognizes its important work throughout the Washington, DC area;

(2) recognizes the accomplishments and achievements of the GW Cancer Institute in research and community outreach; and

(3) based upon the Institute's service, extends its appreciation to The George Washington University Cancer Institute in recognition of its Fifth Annual GW Cancer Institute Gala.

HONORING CAMERON MICHAEL KIEFFER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cameron Michael Kieffer of Liberty, Missouri. Cameron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cameron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Cameron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cameron Michael Kieffer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MIKE NEWMAN FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION II STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Mike Newman showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Mike Newman was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Mike Newman always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Mike Newman on winning the Boys' Division II State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACK-DOWN IN TIBET

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1077, and I thank Speaker PELOSI for bringing this important piece of legislation to the floor.

I am deeply troubled by the violence that has erupted in Lhasa and the rest of the Tibetan Autonomous Region. The enduring human rights consequences have the potential to devastate Tibet and completely abolish any chance of peaceful reconciliation. According to news reports, Beijing has sent thousands of soldiers to the region to quell the violence, and Beijing's long-term plans for the region include ramped up ideological education for youth, restrictions on worship, and even harsh retribution for Tibetans who do not demonstrate fidelity to the official party line. This is not a matter of politics; this is not even a matter of international relations; this is a matter of basic human dignity. Tibetans, as we do here in America, ought to have the right to worship freely and live in peace, without fear of punishment.

I add my voice to the rising chorus of international leaders encouraging the Chinese Government to engage His Holiness the Dalai Lama in substantive dialogue. His Holiness has committed his life to social justice and nonviolent conflict resolution. If a lasting peace is to be achieved in Tibet, the Chinese Government must also commit themselves to these ideals.

120TH ANNIVERSARY OF TWIN OAK ESTATES

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere congratulations to the Government of the Republic of China, Taiwan, for celebrating the 120th anniversary of the Twin Oaks Estates.

Built in 1888 by Mr. Gardiner Greene Hubbard, founder of the National Geographic Society, the estate has served the Taiwanese Government in the United States since 1937.

Twin Oaks Estates has been instrumental in allowing the people of Taiwan to establish a dynamic and mutually beneficial relationship between our two countries. The people of Taiwan continue to be our partners in economic matters, democracy, and the pursuit of peace.

I look forward to continue working with the Government of Taiwan and congratulate them again on the 120th anniversary of the Twin Oak Estates.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, April 8, 2008, my plane was delayed due to a delay in my plane arriving from its previous destination and I was unable to cast my vote on suspending the rules and passing H.J. Res. 70 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 161 on suspending the rules and passing H.J. Res. 70, Congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING ERIC STAVES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Eric Jordan Staves of Kearney, Missouri. Eric is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Eric has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Eric has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Eric Jordan Staves for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING NATHAN WOODWORTH FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION II STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Nathan Woodworth showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Nathan Woodworth was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Nathan Woodworth always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Nathan Woodworth on winning the Boys' Division II State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES "CHUCK"
LAHATTE

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Charles "Chuck" LaHatte, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council.

Chuck LaHatte is a dedicated volunteer with the Disabled American Veterans, DAV, driving a DAV van to help disabled veterans get to and from Fort Howard for their medical treatment. A veteran himself, Chuck truly cares about the disabled veterans he assists on a weekly basis. He serves as an encouraging example in their lives.

Volunteering about 70 hours a month with disabled veterans, Chuck helps teach other DAV volunteers how to interact with the disabled veterans and how best to serve them. Chuck realizes the importance of the service he provides for disabled veterans, and goes above and beyond the call of duty in order to give the disabled veterans he transports the best possible service.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Chuck LaHatte. He is a remarkable volunteer for Maryland's veterans. Through his ongoing efforts, he has helped dozens of veterans to receive the medical care they need. Chuck has gone above and beyond the call of duty to aid those who have sacrificed to serve our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO LINWARD "LIN"
APPLING

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the career of Lin Appling, upon his retirement from the Missouri Public Service Commission.

Mr. Appling received a B.A. from Coker College and an M.A. from Wichita State University, while serving in the U.S. Army. Mr. Appling's distinguished Army service has been recognized with the bestowing of the U.S. Army Legion of Merit Award as well as a Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam.

Since 1993, Mr. Appling has served the Missouri State government in a number of capacities, culminating with his appointment in 2004 to the Missouri Public Service Commission.

Mr. Appling has been an active member of his community through his work with the Capital City Boys & Girls Club. Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at an early age, Mr. Appling has been instrumental in helping others reach their goals.

I am certain that Members of the House will join me in thanking Lin Appling for his service to his country and to the State of Missouri.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA
HONORAIR VETERANS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from South Louisiana.

On April 12, 2008, a group of 96 veterans and their guardians will fly to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these veterans from my home State of Louisiana to visit Washington, DC, on a chartered flight free of charge. During their visit, they will visit Arlington National Cemetery and the World War II Memorial. For many, this will be their first and only opportunity to see these sights dedicated to the great service they have provided for our nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their unselfish service.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT
OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACK-
DOWN IN TIBET

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern over the recent crackdown in Tibet by the Chinese government. I strongly believe that America must be a country that speaks out on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves—men and women who are being persecuted for their religious or political beliefs.

Every person on earth has certain inalienable rights. In a 1987 Constitution Day speech, Ronald Reagan noted that the U.S. Constitution has been described "as a kind of covenant. It is a covenant we've made not only with ourselves but with all of mankind." America has a profound responsibility to keep this covenant and to stand up for freedom in the world's darkest corners.

China is a perfect example of a place where these rights are not being protected. The China of today is worse than the China of yesterday, or of last year, or of the last decade. China is not progressing. It is regressing. It is more violent, more repressive, and more resistant to democratic values than ever before.

The Cardinal Kung Foundation reports that in 2007, 35 Roman Catholic bishops were in jail, under house arrest, or harassed and put under surveillance. In 2007, the Chinese government arrested 693 Christians that we know of. Renowned human rights advocate and Uyghur Muslim Rebiya Kadeer has watched from exile as the Chinese government arrests and beats her family members in her homeland. Since the crackdown on Falun Gong began in 1999, untold numbers of Falun Gong practitioners have been arrested, imprisoned and tortured.

The Tibetans have suffered terribly over the years at the hands of the Chinese government. Tibet is gradually, but brutally, being

subsumed by China. Inch by inch, this region, its people, its culture, its religion, even its language is growing fainter and fainter and could one day disappear as the Chinese government persists in trying to liquidate Tibetan culture and presence in China.

The reports and images of this most recent crackdown in Tibet are deeply disturbing. Tibetan Buddhist monks and Tibetan youth have been beaten down in the street and rounded up in house-to-house searches for protesting China's rule of the Tibet region. Scores of Tibetans are believed to have been killed in the violence, and hundreds of Tibetans have been arrested by Chinese police for participating in protests.

Given this legacy of violence and discrimination by the Chinese government, I'm not surprised it would crack down with such brutal force against these Tibetan protestors. My outrage at what China is doing in Tibet led me to visit Tibet in 1997, and I have seen first-hand the repression the Tibetans live under.

And despite all of its abhorrent acts, China was still awarded the honor of hosting the 2008 Olympics. The Olympic Games are an event designed to lift up "the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles," according to its own charter.

Does China's behavior sound like a "good example" to the rest of the world? Or that it is reflecting "fundamental ethical principles" that all nations should aspire to? It is because of China's actions that I cannot support the President or other senior U.S. officials attending the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

While I have strenuously urged the President not to attend the Olympics, I know I cannot stop the President from going. But I am offering language in the 2008 emergency supplemental appropriations bill to prohibit U.S. government officials and employees from attending the Beijing Olympics on the taxpayers' dime.

The political prisoners in China and Chinese dissidents around the world will be deeply demoralized by what the Chinese government will surely portray as symbolic support for its regime if senior American officials attend the games.

Some say that the protection of human rights is secondary to attaining economic power and wealth. We must reject that notion. China poses a threat not only to its own citizens, but to the entire world.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING RAY
CHAMBERS FOR WINNING THE
BOYS' DIVISION II STATE BAS-
KETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ray Chambers showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Ray Chambers was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Ray Chambers always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional

District, I congratulate Ray Chambers on winning the Boys' Division II State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

**HONORING BETH GLASS FOR
WINNING THE GOLD AWARD**

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Beth Glass for winning the Gold Award, the Girl Scouts of the USA's highest honor for girls 14–18 years old.

Last summer, Miss Glass set out to complete the required 50 hours of community service. Desiring to honor community firefighters, she decided to repaint fire hydrants, a task she considered both achievable and extremely important since fire fighters rely on the hydrant's color to gauge how much water can flow through an individual hydrant.

Not only did Miss Glass accomplish her community service requirement of 50 hours, she went above and beyond when she put in 69 hours of service. In addition, she managed to engage her friends, family and the community on the project. While her friends and family helped paint, community hardware stores donated supplies.

A resident of Jacksonville, Texas, Miss Glass is a senior at All-Saints Episcopal School in Tyler, Texas, and has been a Girl Scout since fourth grade.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Beth Glass for not only winning the highest Girl Scout honor, but for her dedication to serving her community.

**CARING FOR VETERANS IN
AMERICA'S HEARTLAND**

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, since 1993 HVAF (Helping Homeless Veterans and Families) of Indiana, Inc. has been committed to assisting our Nation's veterans overcome the challenges of homelessness. I rise today to honor this remarkable organization, and it's most recent initiative, Operation Heartland, which has dedicated itself to taking care of the needs of our heroes.

HVAF has successfully organized projects such as small-scale supportive housing units for homeless vets and the Veteran's Service Center where homeless veterans can obtain food, clothing, hygiene products, IndyGo bus tickets, and use shower facilities; but Operation Heartland is perhaps HVAF's most ambitious project to date. The goal of Operation Heartland is to raise funds to furnish a 40 unit apartment building as the Donald W. Moreau, Sr. Veterans House. Hopefully by August of this year the Moreau House will be up and running and able to accommodate 40 homeless veterans, many of whom have substance

abuse or mental health issues. While staying at the Moreau house, homeless veterans will have the opportunity to receive counseling and other rehabilitative services from HVAF staff, in hopes of returning to society as productive citizens.

In a vote of confidence that HVAF would be successful, Oprah Winfrey's Big Give program recently gave \$5,000 to help Operation Heartland get off the ground. Since then, the outpouring of support for Operation Heartland generated by Hoosiers has been substantial. Many of the donors who have already committed to the program include the Indianapolis Colts, FedEx Corporation, and Cathedral High School. One individual donor personally committed to provide over 15 percent of Operation Heartland's entire goal, and a local mom, who couldn't provide funding, committed her quilting group to provide quilts for the Moreau House.

Caring for our veterans—the men and women who have provided such an incredible service to our country—is one of the most important things we can do. Operation Heartland will help to get our veterans off the streets and into safe homes and satisfying jobs. Our homeless veterans, who have served our country with the utmost courage, honor and dignity, especially deserve the kind of second chance that Operation Heartland and similar initiatives can provide. Madam Speaker, organizations like HVAF of Indiana are working hard to repay the debt we all owe to all the men and women who ever served in our Armed Forces. They deserve our support, our respect and our profound thanks; and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the exemplary efforts of HVAF of Indiana.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, on April 8, 2008, I was unable to vote due to official business outside Washington. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 161, 162, and 163.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN RUBY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, tonight Allen Ruby will be honored by the University of Santa Clara School of Law. Since the House is in session, I will not be able to participate in this important event. But I do want to note that there is no one more worthy of honor and recognition as a lawyer and as a person than Allen Ruby.

In 1965, after earning his bachelor of arts from Michigan State University in only 3 years, he came west to Stanford Law School. Since graduating from Stanford Law School in 1969 he has practiced criminal and civil law in San Jose. His demonstrated skill and commitment to justice enabled him to be admitted to the Supreme Court Bar in 1993.

I first came to know Allen Ruby when I was a member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. The county was embroiled as a defendant in long-standing litigation. As the only county supervisor who was also an attorney, it fell to me to recommend to my colleagues the best lawyer in town to represent the county's interest. Allen Ruby was the best. To participate with Allen Ruby in preparation of the county's case was to watch an attorney of rare talent. He acted with integrity and ingenuity and served the people of Santa Clara County well.

Allen Ruby has represented a who's who of clients not only in Silicon Valley, but around the United States.

One of his most important public interest cases was the government false claims whistle-blower case, United States of America ex rel Henry Boisvert v. FMC Corp. The matter began when Boisvert, an FMC test analyst, found deficiencies in the U.S. Army's Bradley Fighting Vehicle. The all-terrain vehicle was designed to carry troops and equipment through water and on land but it leaked, making it a danger for troops. As a result of his continued reporting of vehicle flaws, Boisvert was terminated from his employment. Allen Ruby was able to prove that the termination by FMC was wrongful after he filed suit under the False Claims Act.

Ruby's zealous representation of Boisvert for the last 5 years of this 14-year lawsuit resulted in an important victory for the public interest as well as the individual whistleblower.

Mr. Ruby's extraordinary ability in trial is also appreciated by his colleagues. Their respect for Mr. Ruby gained him membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. In 1999, the Santa Clara County Trial Lawyers Association named him Trial Lawyer of the Year.

Mr. Ruby's integrity was not just noted by clients and colleagues, the Santa Clara County Superior Court also recognized his expertise and skill by naming him Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Pro Tem, presiding over jury trials and court trials from 1987 to 1991.

Allen Ruby's legal career is impressive and his legal acumen has made him an attorney who has merited the trust of individuals and corporations in the most crucial of times. But the legal acumen that has inspired that trust is built on his values and deep commitment to justice.

His personal sense of responsibility to insuring access to our system of justice has moved him to take action outside of his profession as well. Amidst his landmark cases, he has still made time to serve others in several capacities, including as a Silicon Valley Law Foundation board member.

Allen Ruby is honored and famed as a trial lawyer, but he grew up in a family of modest means. He was blessed by parents who loved and nurtured him and helped him to develop the values that have served him well throughout his life. Between high school and law school Allen Ruby followed in the footsteps of his father and was a wrestler on the Midwestern professional wrestling circuit. He learned many lessons through this experience, many of which have contributed to his success as an attorney. He has stated about the experience, "I learned how to get beat and not

whine about it, and that was the most valuable lesson I could have learned as a trial lawyer."

Allen Ruby is not only a spectacular lawyer, he is a valued friend and a respected member of our community in Silicon Valley. I join with Santa Clara Law School in recognizing and honoring him.

HONORING PASTOR HENRY
FULLER, JR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Henry Fuller, Jr. on his 10th anniversary as Pastor at Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Flint, Michigan. The congregation is holding a celebration of the 10th anniversary of pastoral service on Saturday, April 12th and April 13th.

Pastor Fuller received his bachelor's degree from the United Bible Institute of the United Theological Seminary—Flint Branch. He received an honorary doctorate from United Bible Institute of the United Theological Seminary in Monroe, Louisiana. He preached his first sermon on December 12, 1971 at Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. He was inspired to organize a mission in Holly, Michigan in 1973. The mission became Faith Baptist Church. Between the years 1983 to 1998, Pastor Fuller headed the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Muncie, Indiana.

On April 18, 1998, Pastor Fuller returned to his roots and became the Pastor at Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. In addition to leading the congregation, Pastor Fuller has held several positions with the church and in the community. He has served as president of the Northeastern District Sunday School and BTU Congress of Christian Education of the Northeastern District Missionary Baptist Association in Muncie; president of Indiana Consolidated Congress of Christian Education of the Indiana Consolidated State Convention; served on the finance board of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.; as a writer with the Publishing Board Sunday School and BTU Literature National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.; as an instructor at the Central Baptist Theological Seminary of Indiana; and served as moderator of the Great Lakes Baptist District Association, 2000–2007.

He currently serves as the president of the Wolverine State Missionary Baptist Convention; member of the board of trustees of American Baptist College of ABTS Nashville; Chairman, Wolverine State Baptist Convention Constitution Committee in Saginaw; President, United Bible Institute of UTS, Flint Branch; Instructor, United Bible Institute Flint; Instructor, Great Lakes Baptist District Leadership and Education Congress; Instructor, Wolverine State Baptist Congress; Instructor/Preacher, Baptist Ministerial Alliance in Flint; Chairman of the Clergy Division, United Way of Lapeer and Genesee Counties; Executive Board Member At-Large, National Baptist Convention USA; Treasurer, Todd-Phillip Children's Home, Wolverine State Baptist Convention. Pastor Fuller also serves on the Strategic Planning Committee with the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education; and on the Mayor's Community Advisory Board in Flint. He re-

ceived the "Moderator and Builder of the Year" award from the Wolverine State Baptist Convention Women's Auxiliary.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the work of Pastor Henry Fuller, Jr. and congratulating Pastor Fuller, his wife, Marilyn W. Fuller, and their four children. Pastor Fuller inspires his congregation every day, provides leadership to the Baptist community, and strives to improve the lives of the people of Flint. I pray that he will continue his work for many, many more years.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT
OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACK-
DOWN IN TIBET

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and in support of nonviolence as the most powerful force in human relations.

Unnecessary force and the systemic violation of human rights have led us to this day. The recent events in Tibet have saddened many of us, and have served as a disturbing reminder of the suffering that Tibetans continue to endure.

News reports have captured violent scenes that are difficult to understand: Buddhist monks juxtaposed alongside armed riot police; protestors with fear and disbelief in their eyes standing across from stoic guards.

The Chinese Government's crackdown in Tibet is a sad example of the state of human rights in China, and its overall lack of respect for freedom of expression. We are witnessing the struggle of a people that seek to preserve their traditions and their religion, so that their children may inherit a rich, peace-loving culture. And we must do what we can to promote peaceful dialogue that produces a resolution that underscores the fundamental freedoms of all Tibetans.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1077.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT
OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACK-
DOWN IN TIBET

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1077 calling on the Peoples' Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and engage in substantive dialogue with His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. For nearly six decades, China has pursued a deliberate policy of cultural, religious, linguistic, and economic repression against the people of Tibet. Last month on the 49th anniversary of a historic uprising against Chinese rule, Tibetan monks began a series of protests which widened into large-scale and often violent clashes between protestors and Chinese authorities.

These protests were the largest since 1989, when Chinese authorities imposed martial law in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, following mass antigovernment protests.

Since 1950, the history of Tibet—then an autonomous region inhabited by fewer than 3 million overwhelmingly ethnic Tibetans—has been characterized by harsh religious persecution and political repression. The Chinese government has been systematically eradicating the unique cultural and religious heritage of Tibet. In 2006, the Department of State Human Rights Report named China as one of "the most systematic violators of human rights" in part due to its repressive actions in Tibet.

In 2007, that same report documented discriminatory Chinese government policies that provide economic benefits to Han Chinese migrants willing to relocate to Tibet. While Tibetans maintain their majority in rural areas, cities such as Lhasa have seen hundreds of thousands of migrant workers lured by economic incentives and the construction of a new railroad. This influx of ethnically Han Chinese has spurred fears among many Tibetans, who have almost no political voice, that the government is engaging in a deliberate campaign to bludgeon their cultural and religious heritage. By suppressing the religious and political rights of Tibetans and by repeatedly denying access to journalists and human rights observers, China has demonstrated a negligent disregard for the rights of Tibetans and has unnecessarily repressed a society which embraces nonviolence and seeks political reconciliation rather than armed resistance.

It is my belief that President Bush should revoke his decision to attend the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing to protest China's abysmal human rights record in Tibet in addition to its key support for the genocidal government in Sudan. Hosting the Olympic Games is a unique privilege and China's repression of Tibet stands in stark contrast to the ideals behind that august international competition. I join my colleagues today in condemning China's crackdown on nonviolent protestors in Tibet and urge the Chinese government to immediately commence negotiations with the Dalai Lama with the goal of forging a long-term solution that safeguards the unique cultural and religious heritage of the Tibetan people.

HONORING SHARON COOK FOR
WINNING THE WISE AWARD

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, for the past 7 years, the greater Mesquite area has honored many exceptional women in the community through the Women in Service and Enterprise, WISE, Award Luncheon and Style Show. Today, I rise to honor this year's award recipient, Mrs. Sharon Cook, who is a shining example of strong, capable, and dedicated leadership. I would also like to recognize honorees Tamara Akens, Rachel Lopez, and Jeann Wisenbaker, for their valuable service and commitment to their community.

Sharon has been employed with Eastfield College for 26 years, where she currently

serves as director of marketing and communications. She is an active member and ambassador of the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce. Sharon is also a member of the American Heart Association Board, among a myriad of other civic and community involvement.

Past WISE Award winners have served in a variety of ways, but they are united by the long-lasting impact they have made on their community. Their service and community involvement continues to inspire younger generations.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize all of the WISE honorees for their outstanding service and congratulate them on their awards. Thank you, ladies, for helping make our community and country a better place.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACKDOWN IN TIBET

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this important resolution. On Monday, activists spread a huge banner across the Golden Gate Bridge reading "One World. One Dream. Free Tibet." I think we can all learn from these powerful words. China's crackdown on the Tibetan people has reminded us that human rights violations are an all too common part of life under Chinese rule.

As a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, I believe China must engage in an open dialogue with the Dalai Lama that respects the independent national identity of the Tibetan people. However, China's violent oppression of these peaceful protestors only shows their refusal to reach a solution to this crisis. Additionally, China has refused to end its support for the Government of Sudan, continuing to invest in its corrupt leaders. Unfortunately, China's support has helped prolong the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

We cannot expect China to lead the international community by hosting the Olympic games when it continues to show a lack of respect for fundamental human rights. Our President and all American travelers must seriously reflect on whether to support the Beijing Olympic games in any way because our country must never support those who stand in the way of peace and freedom.

KC-135 AIR REFUELING TANKERS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the Air Force's recent decision to award Northrop Grumman and its partner, European Aeronautic Defense and Space, EADS, the \$40 billion contract to replace the KC-135 air refueling tankers. The Air Force chose against a Boeing team that included Connecticut-based Pratt & Whitney as the engine supplier.

After the contract was awarded, the Connecticut congressional delegation requested a briefing from the Air Force on the source selection process and learned that the two competitors were essentially on par in their bid to win the contract. By all objective measures there was no clear winner, and so the contract award and all the American jobs associated with it were ultimately given to Northrop-EADS for seemingly subjective reason by unidentified personnel within the Air Force. That begs the question: why did the tie not go to the home team?

The Air Force was unable or unwilling to delve into extensive detail as to why Boeing lost the award. Boeing filed a protest with the General Accountability Office shortly after it lost the bid.

What I find particularly troubling in this case is that the Air Force—despite the \$40 billion price tag—is not required and does not consider U.S. jobs or the economy in its decision-making. Even more disconcerting is the fact that the Air Force does not seem to be concerned with the security risks of having foreign companies and their employees work on such a major defense project.

Our national economy and our national security are significantly affected by this decision. We have a responsibility to take all the potential consequences into account and in addition, examine the international context in which this decision is being made. The fact is that the impact of this contract will not occur in a vacuum.

For example, the Office of the United States Trade Representative is aggressively challenging in the World Trade Organization, WTO, the millions of dollars in European government subsidies that Airbus—EADS is its parent company—is receiving. The United States accuses Airbus of taking advantage of "launch aid"—grants and loans at unfairly favorable rates. And so, during a recent hearing, U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab told the Senate Finance Committee that the USTR had briefed the Air Force some time ago about the pending U.S. trade case against Airbus at the WTO. Nevertheless, Air Force officials told the Connecticut delegation there is nothing in their rules that call for them to consider the dispute. They ignored it, just as they ignored concerns over their decision's effect on the economy and the likely off-shoring of good paying jobs and our defense industrial base.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this decision will have a deep, long-term negative impact on the aerospace industry and supporting industries in this county, which are so critical to both our national security and our economy. At a time when our Nation faces a recession and a rising unemployment rate, it is wrong-headed to award such a major contract to another nation rather than utilize our own skilled workers and keep scarce resources here at home. The decision will not only continue but also accelerate the erosion of our industrial base and skilled workforce—jeopardizing both our national security and economic prosperity.

Indeed, Connecticut alone stands to lose thousands of jobs at Pratt & Whitney, along with many more from small vendors and suppliers who would have benefited from the award. For Pratt & Whitney's Middletown operations, this news is especially hard to bear, for the company had been planning to use the tanker award to transition away from the old C-17 engine systems.

Labor leaders, businesses, policy experts and others agree that the Air Force made the wrong decision. Organizations such as the Center for Security Policy argue that awarding the contract to an international consortium threatens U.S. national security. And they are joined by organizations like the AFL-CIO and International Association of Machinists in opposing the award.

Finally, I would like to point out that this contract has no contingency plan for dealing with potential cost overruns and schedule delays—problems currently facing the Marine One presidential helicopter program. Defense projects that have been outsourced to foreign countries have experienced significant delays and excessive cost overruns. The Pentagon recently acknowledged that the current helicopter contract awarded to Lockheed Martin and its British-Italian Partner, AugustaWestland-Finmeccanica, is significantly over budget—\$11.2 billion, up from an initial estimate of \$6.1 billion—and will breach the cost threshold set by Congress.

I am deeply concerned by the fact that, like the Marine One contract, the Air Force has given almost no consideration to the myriad security and economic implications underlying the award of a multi-billion dollar contract to a foreign company. It is déjà vu all over again with the American worker, taxpayer and military likely to come out on the losing end.

IN HONOR OF THE 2007 SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, as the Sacramento River Cats 2008 home opener approaches, I rise in tribute of their 2007 season in which they won the Pacific Coast League and the Triple-A Championship. The River Cats capped their season off in impressive fashion winning 7 straight playoff games to clinch the title. Upon sweeping the New Orleans Zephyrs to win the Pacific Coast League championship, Sacramento laid their claim as outright Triple-A champions by defeating the Richmond Braves in the second annual Bricktown Showdown, a one game playoff between the Pacific Coast Champion and the International League Champion. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting the triumphant 2007 Sacramento River Cats.

The River Cats remarkable playoff run began when they clinched the Pacific Coast League Southern Division by finishing the regular season with a record of 84-60. Despite falling behind two games to none against Salt Lake City in the playoff's first round, the River Cats came back to win the next three games. Using that positive momentum, the River Cats quickly beat the New Orleans Zephyrs in three games, winning the Pacific Coast League title for the third time in 5 years. The series final game was seen before a spirited and sellout crowd of 14,414 fans at Sacramento's Raley Field.

The 2007 Sacramento River Cats exuded resilience in the face of adversity. Despite being a revolving door that allowed their parent affiliate, Major League Baseball's Oakland A's, to replenish their injured roster, the River

Cats overcame more than 180 roster changes to win the championship. This meant that they accomplished the feat by receiving contributions from numerous and sometimes unlikely sources. No one epitomized this more than Nick Blasi, who spent much of the season with Class-A Stockton before becoming a playoff catalyst and the Pacific Coast League's Series MVP. Blasi hit a remarkable .457 in the play-off.

Throughout this roster shuffle, every member of the 2007 River Cats demonstrated outstanding commitment to team play and hard work. Manager Tony DeFrancesco once again was the steady mentor for his young and ever changing roster that featured some of baseball's brightest prospects who are destined to become the stars of tomorrow. The roster was anchored by contributions from now major leaguers: Daric Barton, Kurt Suzuki and Santiago Casilla, as well as prospects Jason Perry, J.J. Furmaniak and Brad Knox.

Under the leadership of President and CEO Art Savage the River Cats players reaffirmed the front offices commitment to the people of Sacramento. On the Opening Day of the season, the River Cats unveiled their Mario Encarnacion Humanitarian Award which will annually honor a young student athlete who shows a commitment to his or her teammates and classmates. Furthermore, the River Cats Foundation has been providing support to Sacramento nonprofits that assist with youth and family activities. The River Cats commitment to the community was reciprocated by the Sacramento fans, as the River Cats led the Pacific Coast League in attendance for an astounding 8th year in a row. Around 710,000 fans attended River Cats 71 home contests this year, and since beginning play at Raley Field in 2000, the River Cats have drawn over 6,000,000 fans.

Madam Speaker, as the River Cats prepare for another successful season, I am honored to pay tribute to the many hard-working men and women of the River Cats organization who brought so much joy and pride to the people of Sacramento. Their successes are highly commendable. I ask all my colleagues to join one in celebrating the River Cats 2007 championship season.

PAYING THE PRICE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, the time has come to recognize the effects of climate change on the Caribbean community; I want to enter into the RECORD editorials from the New York CaribNews for March 4, 2008 and March 11, 2008, respectively, "Paying the Price for Climate Change" and "Deal with Climate Change."

The Caribbean community countries (CARICOM), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other Least Developed Countries (LCD's) are experiencing the serious effect of climate change even though they contribute the least to the problem and have the least capacity to adapt to the new conditions created.

CARICOM Member States are being forced to divert resources from important develop-

ment initiatives such as health, food, education and critical infrastructure issues to adapt to the damages being caused by the climate change. Some of the major effects being experienced include sea-level rise, increasingly severe hurricanes, drought and water scarcity, coral bleaching and declining fish stocks.

CARICOM is asking developed countries to take immediate action to help counteract the effects of climate change and to increase funding over and above traditional official development assistance. The United Nations has been requested to assist specifically with disaster preparedness.

I encourage the International Community to mobilize to help the Caribbean protect its precious beautiful environment as a legacy for all mankind.

DEAL WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

REGION OUTLINES WISHES TO U.N.—HOW INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN HELP CARICOM STATES

(By Tony Best)

Citing their own high vulnerability CARICOM nations have called on the international community to help them deal with the costly impact of climate change.

What the countries, which include Antigua, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica Grenada, Haiti, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Vincent, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago want the United Nations system to do is to help them cope with disaster preparedness.

This means high-priced insurance to aid in recovering losses due to the fall-out from climate change while aiding in risk management and climate monitoring, among other things.

CARICOM's shopping list of needs, will, was presented to the U.N. General Assembly by Dr. Christopher Hackett, Barbados' U.N. Ambassador, who in an address on behalf of the entire region complained that although an "unfortunate reality" was that Caribbean nations and other Small Island Developing States, (SIDS), as well as the world's least developed countries, (LDCs), contributed "the least to the problem" they were "confronted with the most serious challenges" associated with climate change.

Just as important, Dr. Hackett told a special session in New York that was devoted to the issue that the smaller and poorer nations "possess the least capacity to adapt" and meet the challenges.

"CARICOM member-states are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts including sea-level rise, increasingly severe hurricanes and other extreme weather events, such as drought and water scarcity, coral bleaching, and declining fish stocks," he explained.

That is why Caribbean states wanted U.N. agencies, funds and programs to "ensure that their activities in the area of climate change in our region are fully supportive of national and regional efforts to address these specific challenges."

Specifically, they appealed to the U.N. to: * Assist CARICOM in "incorporating climate change adaptation concerns in national development plans and strategies"

* Provide technical and other forms of assistance to CARICOM so they can "strengthen" the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center and other "co-ordination mechanisms."

* Back plans designed to promote information sharing "on adaptation technologies, development and transfer between exchange developing countries;" including the exchange of ideas on "best practices."

* Help CARICOM undertake the monitoring of climate while expanding the ability

to assess the region's vulnerability and to carry out impact studies.

* Give both "technical and financial" support in such areas as disaster preparedness, early warning, risk management, disaster mitigation and disaster recovery and rehabilitation.

* Develop new financial arrangements to support "adaptation measures" while providing insurance coverage to small island states so they "recoup losses due to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise."

As Dr. Hackett explained it, "climate change of very damaging proportions and which poses a very serious danger to the very existence of our countries is already occurring and the longer the international community postpones the implementation of the necessary greenhouse gas emissions cuts, the more adaptation will be required by SIDS and at much greater costs." The region complained that the island-nations and coastal states in the region had "been forced to divert scarce resources" from key development initiatives" such as health, education, food and the provision of critical infrastructures to meet the demands of climate change adaptation.

"Surely," he added, "this has major implications for achieving sustainable development goals."

PAYING THE PRICE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

HOW CARIBBEAN NATIONS ARE FACING SERIOUS CHALLENGES

It is an unfortunate reality that CARICOM countries and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), all of whom contribute the least to the problem, are confronted with the most serious challenges associated with climate change; yet we possess the least capacity to adapt. Climate change of very damaging proportions and which poses a very serious danger to the very existence of our countries is already occurring and the longer the international community postpones the implementation of the necessary greenhouse gas emission cuts, the more adaptation will be required by SIDS and at much greater costs.

Negotiations around the four themes agreed to at Bali—Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance and Technology—should not prevent advancement of, or immediate action under any theme. For CARICOM adaptation, finance and technology are not only required in 2009 or post-2012, they are urgently needed now.

CARICOM Member States have been forced to divert scarce resources from key developmental initiatives (e.g. health, education, food, provision of critical infrastructure etc) to climate change adaptation activities. Surely this has major implications for achieving sustainable development goals.

The inadequacy of financing for adaptation activities in developing countries is a major failing of the entire international system. As stated in the 2007 UNDP Human Development Report "the current framework provides the equivalent of an aid sponge for mopping up during a flood". That report estimates that new additional adaptation finance of at least US\$86 billion a year will be required by 2015 to meet the most basic and pressing adaptation needs of developing countries. Expressed in other terms this figure represents a mere one tenth of what developed countries currently mobilize for military expenditure.

While increasing emphasis is being paid to private-public partnerships the role of international cooperation remains essential and must be enhanced. CARICOM urges developed countries to take immediate action to significantly scale-up the level of financing devoted to adaptation through the provision

of new and additional resources, over and above traditional official development assistance (ODA). This would serve as a major confidence building measure and demonstration of good faith, as we enter a period of great uncertainty.

The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies of the UN System by the very nature of their respective mandates are important for a dialogue, awareness raising and the exchange of information on issues of global concern. CARICOM believes that the General Assembly and ECOSOC must continue to ensure that addressing climate change remains a global priority, while fully respecting and not duplicating the ongoing negotiating process with the Convention. In this context, future actions or initiatives by the GA or the ECOSOC should add value to the ongoing negotiations, and be guided by the needs of Member States, particularly those most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. While we are convinced that a parallel negotiating theatre should not be established within the GA, we are equally convinced that the issue of climate change should not be held in abeyance in New York until our work is completed within the Convention.

CARICOM has some concerns over the orientation of the SG's report and in particular the rationale given for what he terms "a more inclusive and coherent approach to climate change". We believe that the first and overriding priority of the U.N. System's work in climate change should be addressing the needs of those most vulnerable and most adversely impacted by climate change—SIDS, LDCs, countries in Africa and disaster prone developing countries, rather than, as the report states providing support for negotiations. The effectiveness of the U.N. System should be assessed by its capacity to deliver the required assistance to, and build capacity in, these vulnerable countries and other developing countries.

CARICOM Member States are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts including sea-level rise, increasingly severe hurricanes and other extreme weather events, drought and water scarcity, coral bleaching, and declining fish stocks. In this regard we call on relevant U.N. agencies, funds and programs to ensure that their activities in the area of climate change in our region are fully supportive of national and regional efforts to address these specific challenges. This demand driven approach with strong national and regional ownership must be embedded in the U.N.'s work at the national and regional levels. Areas, sectors, projects and program identified as priority in our national communications to the Convention, national and regional adaptation plans and sustainable development plans and strategies should receive the full support of the relevant parts of the U.N. System.

IN HONOR OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 738

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of American Legion Post 738, on its sixtieth anniversary; and in honor of its members' outstanding service to their country and community.

American Legion Post 738 is comprised of over one hundred people, each of whom has served our country during a time of war. Rec-

ognized by Mayor Eileen Patton of Fairview Park as a "dedicated group of true Americans that are proud to serve our country", the members of American Legion Post 738 have played a significant role in the community for sixty years.

Every year, Post 738 organizes Fairview Park's spectacular Memorial Day Parade. Located on Lorain Road, Post 738 has served as a beacon of hospitality. After every Memorial Day Parade, they welcome all members of the community back to their post and host them for a bountiful cookout. Members of the Post also host bi-monthly dinners there.

Every year before Christmas, Post and auxiliary members of Post 738 put together care packages for fellow veterans at the Louis Stokes Veterans Administration Medical Center in Brecksville, Ohio and nurturing local children whose parents are veterans at their annual Christmas party. Always willing to participate in City events, six times a year, Post and ladies auxiliary members deliver refreshments and play bingo with veterans at the VA medical center.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the members of American Legion Post 738 for their outstanding and tireless efforts on behalf of veterans of this country, as well as for their extensive and diverse service to many individuals and families who call the Greater Cleveland area home.

[From the WestLife Newspaper, Apr. 2, 2008]

AMERICAN LEGION POST 738 MARKING 60TH ANNIVERSARY

(By Kevin Kelley)

The ladies auxiliary of American Legion Post 738 is putting on a dinner marking the organization's 60th anniversary April 12.

Despite the celebratory nature of the event, Joanne Hulec, president of the ladies auxiliary, has a sense of trepidation.

"I hope this is not the last birthday dinner we have," she said.

Property taxes and utility costs have combined with declining membership to put American Legion Post 738 in a financial pinch in recent months.

Three months ago, some leaders associated with the post put out a public appeal to help with the organization's cash flow problems.

Ron Hulec, Joanne's husband and a former post commander and member of its executive board, said while the organization is currently solvent, its finances are still tight.

Hulec said that when he joined about 14 years ago, the post had about 240 members. Today it has around 140.

There has been some discussion in recent months among post leaders, Hulec said, of selling its property, located at 1931 Lorain Road. In the event of such a sale, the post would seek to share facilities with another area post, possibly American Legion Clifton Post 421, headquartered at 22001 Brookpark Road. However, members have held off on making any decision to sell the post's hall, said Hulec, who served in the Army in the 1950s.

"We're doing everything we can to keep functioning the way we have been," he said.

The post's current commander, Jim Babitsky, noted that most community organizations have been having financial problems lately.

"We're hoping to stabilize the finances and keep the post alive and keep it going," said Babitsky, a Marine veteran who was stationed in Vietnam in 1968-69. "The economic times are just rough on everybody."

Meanwhile, the post's members, who already served their country during wartime, continue to serve the community and their fellow veterans in various ways.

The post raises the American flag at Fairview High School home football games and provides color guards at local civil events.

"If City Hall needs the colors posted, we usually do that," Babitsky said.

Mayor Eileen Patton said she appreciated their service.

"Legion Post 738 has always played an important role in our community," Patton told WestLife. "They participate in our Summerfest every year as well as every We Do Care ceremony each November at the high school. They also organize our Memorial Day parade and invite the community back to the post for a ceremony and a great cookout at no cost."

"I also have the honor of attending all the Legion ceremonies installing their new boards and the women's auxiliary boards as well. They are a wonderful dedicated group of true Americans that are so proud of serving our country. They are always willing to participate in our city events, and I am so glad that I have gotten to know each and every one of them."

Post and ladies auxiliary members travel about six times a year to the U.S. Veterans Administration Medical Center in Brecksville to visit, deliver refreshments, and play bingo with the veterans. "They seem to appreciate that a lot," said Sue Carson, treasurer of the ladies auxiliary. Before Christmas each year, post and auxiliary members put together care packages containing toiletries, cards and books for the veterans at the Brecksville hospital, she added.

The post also hosts an annual Christmas party for local children whose fathers and grandfathers are veterans, said Carson, whose husband, Don, is a Korean Conflict-era Army veteran.

About two dinners are held each month at the post's hall, Carson said. In recent weeks, the ladies auxiliary has been focusing on the anniversary dinner.

"We have a birthday dinner every year," Carson said, "but this year we're trying to make it more special because of the 60th anniversary."

Joanne Hulec said it's shaping up to be one of the post's highlights of the year. "I like to think of it as one of our 'white table cloth' dinners," she joked. Because the dinner will be catered, the ladies will be relieved of kitchen duty, except for those making the hor'dourves, she said.

Several certificates of appreciation will be awarded to a number of post and auxiliary members, Carson said. Just who will be recognized is a secret; however, Carson said recognition will be given to "people who have put forth a concerted effort to be active in the post."

The post's 60th anniversary dinner April 12 is open to the public. Cocktails and appetizers will be served from 5:45 until 6:45 p.m., with dinner following at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 per person. To make reservations, call Sue Carson at (440) 331-2730 by April 7.

PRO OF THE YEAR: For nearly five decades, Post 738 hosted its "Pro Of the Year" dinner honoring a member of the Cleveland Browns. This year, quarterback Derek Anderson will be honored at the April 22 event, which Hulec said is the organization's biggest annual fund-raiser.

TRIBUTE TO KIRKLAND CALVET ANDERSON, SR.

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Kirkland "Kirk"

Calvet Anderson, Sr., of Minnesota, a beloved member of the South Minneapolis community. While I regret the recent passing of Kirkland Anderson on March 14, 2008 at the age of 79, I am grateful for his lifelong service to his family, friends and his dedication and love for our community.

A native of Bolton, Mississippi, Kirkland attended the University of Minnesota from 1946–49. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean war from 1950–1953, and returned to Minneapolis, where in 1954 he married Alice A. Gaskins. After starting his career at the VA Hospital and the U.S. Postal Service, Kirk then went on to operate Kirk's Mobil from 1961–2007.

Most importantly, Kirk will be remembered for his ever willingness to lend a hand to his friends and neighbors. Steadfast dedication to his community was evident through his participation on the board of the Blaisdell YMCA, his support for area schools and parks and the local Scouts.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I wish to express my condolences to those surviving Mr. Anderson: his wife, children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, sister, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, friends, and community. It is an honor to stand in recognition of the memory and life of a man who gave so much. Mr. Anderson, today we thank you.

HONORING MELVIN AND MINNIE LOU SCOTT FOR CELEBRATING THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize two outstanding citizens of Frankston, Texas, Melvin Scott and Minnie Lou Scott.

On November 8, 2007 the Scotts celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary, an accomplishment that very few achieve. The Scotts' long-lasting marriage is one that exemplifies dedication and healthy values. In fact, Frankston citizens often ask the Scotts' advice on how they too can have a successful, long lasting marriage.

On February 21, 2008 Melvin celebrated his 101st birthday. Minnie Lou is 99-years-old. They have one son, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Melvin and Minnie Lou Scott for their longstanding dedication to each other and their family.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GAUDET FAMILY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gaudet Family of Mobile, AL. For years, Steve and Lydia Gaudet, along with their eight children, have given back to the community by donating their time and services to improve the lives of others.

At the encouragement of their friends, colleagues, and those grateful to have received their assistance, the Gaudet family was chosen for some very special recognition of their own. Earlier this year, the family was chosen by the popular ABC television show, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" for a new home.

Six of the eight Gaudet children: Joseph, Chris, Todd, Patrick, Michael, and Peter, live at home with their parents, Steve and Lydia. Steve had recently been laid off from his job with a tire manufacturer, and Lydia works for Goodwill Easter Seals. Despite their own hardships, the entire family volunteers with United Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome Society of Mobile, and Camp Smile-A-Mile, a camp for disabled children and adults.

In February, the crew of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" arrived at the family's home to surprise them with the announcement they had been selected for the show. Steve and Lydia, along with six of their children, lived in an 1,100 square-foot, three-bedroom, one-bathroom home that was 50 years old and still under a bright blue roof tarp due to damage sustained by Hurricane Katrina over 2 years ago.

In "Extreme Makeover" style, the family was sent on a well-deserved, week-long, all-expense paid vacation to a resort in Arizona and given tickets to the Super Bowl. While the Gaudets were away, the family's old home was torn down and replaced with a new 3,500 square-foot home in just 106 hours.

Father and son builders, Frank Lott, Jr., and Frank Lott III, of Heritage Homes of Mobile, worked day and night alongside as many as 1,500 volunteer workers to finish the Gaudet home. In addition to the volunteers, numerous local firms contributed materials to the project and members of the community made monetary donations to the family. CVS Pharmacy donated \$100,000 to Camp Smile-A-Mile and an additional \$50,000 to be used to pay for medical bills related to the special needs of their son, Peter.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Gaudet family for their selfless contributions to the City of Mobile. Despite their own needs, the entire family is devoted to making south Alabama a better place to live. I would also like to commend ABC network, the entire crew of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," Frank Lott, Jr., Frank Lott, III, as well as all of the staff at Heritage Homes, and the volunteers who contributed to providing a beautiful new home for a truly deserving family.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is April 9, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,861 days since the travesty called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection that we should have given them.

It seems so sad to me, Madam Speaker, that this Sunset Memorial may be the only acknowledgement or remembrance these children who died today will ever have in this chamber.

And so—as small a gesture as it might be—I would ask those in this Chamber who are inclined to join me in a moment of silent memorial to these lost little Americans.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude, in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard this sunset memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,801 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust, is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is April 9, 2008—12,861 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of free and the home of the brave.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SHARK CONSERVATION ACT OF 2008

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to improve the conservation of sharks.

Sharks are long-lived apex predators with comparatively small populations, making it difficult for them to breed rapidly enough to maintain populations under fishing pressure. Sharks have been increasingly exploited in recent decades, both as bycatch in the pelagic longline fisheries from the 1960s onward, and as targets in direct fisheries that expanded rapidly in the 1980s. The rising demand for shark fins over past decades has also led to increases in the particularly exploitive practice of shark finning, where fins of sharks are removed and the carcass is discarded at sea.

According to scientists, scalloped hammerhead, white, and thresher shark populations are each estimated to have declined by over 75 percent in the past 15 years due in large part to these fishing pressures. Removing these top predators drastically changes the food web structure, and marine diversity and ecosystem health. Addressing the practice of shark finning is an imperative step toward the conservation of sharks and marine ecosystems.

Congress recognized shark finning as an inherently wasteful practice in enacting the Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-557). This Act prohibits U.S. fishermen from removing the fins of sharks and discarding the carcass at sea, and from landing or transporting shark fins without the corresponding carcass.

The Shark Conservation Act of 2008, which I have introduced today, includes several measures to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of that prohibition and would ensure that the intent of Congress is achieved. First, the bill eliminates an unexpected enforcement loophole related to the transport of shark fins by prohibiting vessels from having custody, control, or possession of shark fins without the corresponding carcass. This is intended to ensure that U.S.-flagged vessels are

not traveling to the high seas and purchasing fins from fishermen engaged in shark finning and bringing them into U.S. waters in an attempt to skirt the finning prohibition.

Second, the Shark Conservation Act of 2008 addresses the difficulty apparent in enforcing the statute's percentage-based standard. Existing law contains a rebuttable presumption that any shark fins landed were taken, held, or landed in violation of the Shark Finning Prohibition Act if the total weight of shark fins landed or found on board exceeds five percent of the total weight of shark carcasses landed or found on board. This "fin to carcass" ratio was intended to provide a mechanism for enforcing the finning prohibition by ensuring that the amount of fins landed is proportional to the amount of carcasses landed. It has proven virtually impossible, however, to determine whether a given set of fins belong to a particular dressed carcass. As a result, there are reports of fishermen mixing fins and carcasses for maximum profit, continuing to discard less desirable, finned sharks at sea. Therefore, the Shark Conservation Act of 2008 strikes the rebuttable presumption to improve enforcement of the prohibition on finning that has existed in statute now for nearly eight years.

Finally, the Shark Conservation Act of 2008 amends the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to allow the Secretary of Commerce to identify and list nations that have not adopted a regulatory program for the conservation of sharks comparable to the United States. This amendment promotes the conservation of sharks internationally and in a manner that is consistent with the expectations placed on U.S. fishermen.

The Shark Conservation Act of 2008 reestablishes the intended protections for sharks under U.S. law. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this timely and important bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, on April 8, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 162.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

EXTENDING THE NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT TO THE TERRITORIES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend eligibility under the new markets tax credit for community development entities created or organized in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. This bill would make a technical correction to existing law governing the new markets tax credit program

and specifically authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to certify corporations or partnerships organized in one of the five U.S. territories as entities qualified to participate in the new markets tax credit program.

The Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-554) authorizes the new markets tax credit program for the purpose of increasing incentives for investment in low-income communities across the country. Under the program, qualified community development entities (CDEs) are eligible to be allocated credits from the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund at the Department of the Treasury. Taxpayers who then invest in the CDE are allocated some of those credits in return for their investment. The CDE must invest those funds in low-income communities, and the taxpayers are able to claim, over a 7-year period, credits equal to 39 percent of their investment. CDEs act as intermediaries for the provision of loans, investment funding, or financial counseling in low-income communities and are able to legally operate anywhere in the United States, including in the territories.

Despite the ability of a CDE under current law to legally and practically operate in a U.S. territory, a corporation or partnership that is created or organized in a U.S. territory applying for CDE certification cannot qualify for such certification under the current law. This ineligibility stems from such organizations being deemed "foreign" and not "domestic" under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. This nuance in law effectively prevents local CDEs in the territories, that is entities who would otherwise be recognized as such by the Department of the Treasury, from investing in their own communities.

The bill I have introduced today would rectify this situation which I believe is an oversight in the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000. The bill would allow for the certification of CDEs created or organized in a U.S. territory thereby enabling them, to operate and invest in their own communities. CDEs organized and operating in any one of the several States or the District of Columbia could continue to invest in low-income communities in the territories under this arrangement.

I am joined by Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN of the Virgin Islands, and Mr. FORTUÑO of Puerto Rico, in introducing this bill. We look forward to working with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means to advance this bill and to support increased investment opportunities for our own communities. Ultimately, this bill is about making the new markets tax credit program work for the territories and ensuring Congressional intent behind the new markets tax credit is fully realized and fulfilled in our communities.

HONORING RYAN T. DION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay great honor to United States Marine Corps Cpl. Ryan T. Dion, a true American hero from Manchester, CT. On April 25, 2007, while serving in Unit

216 Echo Company at Camp LeJeune in Fallujah, Iraq, Ryan was injured in an IED explosion. On December 11, he was awarded the Purple Heart, recognizing his great sacrifice for the defense of our country. The story of Ryan's bravery inspired the following poem, written by United States Capitol Guide, Albert Carey Caswell:

A PATRIOT

A Patriot...
 A young man who goes off to war....
 But, for his country his burden bore!
 Lock and Load,
 A man who so lives by a code....
 Is that not but what heaven is for?
 A fine Marine!
 Who on battle fields of honor, with but his
 courage seen!
 When, heartache would so intervene!
 When, his new battle would begin
 To rebuild where none lies left, all in
 courage's quest... as he so intervenes!
 Without a leg as seen, when so comes within
 his inter being.
 The Proof!
 The Truth! Of what his heart and soul has
 willed. The Truth!
 As all around him, he brings people to tears
 to so instill...
 As we watch him rebuild...and fight the
 fears!
 With his patriotic heart so filled, to our chil-
 dren to so instill...so dear!
 Of All The Best, yes nothing less! As this pa-
 triot climbs this hill with no fear!
 To Teach Us,
 To Reach Us....To So Beseech Us....
 As has Ryan so been seen, as where patriot-
 ism so stands....for all of us to under-
 stand!
 The real Neon Dion!

Shining far . . . Patriotism's Star . . . Shin-
 ing way beyond! Shining far!
 Ooh Rah . . . you've come so far . . . so fast
 . . . Marines Do, They do no ask!
 For in this, Our Country Tis A Thee!
 Has come throughout her very history, such
 fine men and women as he!
 Who are but her very soul, her very fabric of
 gold so indeed! As why we are free!
 Ryan, March On You Patriot. We see!
 Dedicated to Ryan Dion . . . all the fine
 men . . . and women just like him!

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARIE
 SOLDO

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor my good friend Marie Soldo by entering her name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. I rise today to honor my good friend Marie H. Soldo, for her many years of dedicated service at Sierra Health Services and the southern Nevada community and to wish her the best in her retirement.

Before joining Sierra, Marie served for 7 years as a Regional HMO Program Consultant for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this position she was responsible for promoting HMO development, monitoring

operations, and funding developing HMOs in her assigned region.

After becoming a part of the Sierra Health team Marie was appointed Vice President of Government Affairs and Special Projects on January 1, 1988, and promoted to Executive Vice President of Government Affairs and Special Projects in 1997.

Ms. Soldo is a member of several professional organizations, including Chairwoman of the Sierra Community Healthcare Foundation Board of Trustees. She served as President of the Nevada Association of Health Plans and serves as a Director for Health Plan of Nevada, Inc., Med One Health Plan, COU, Inc., Northern Nevada Health Network, Prime Health, Inc., Prime Holdings, Inc., and Sierra Military Health Services, Inc.

In addition to her service to the southern Nevada community, Maria has dedicated herself to improving the lives of those in Africa and Latin America. Maria has participated in medical missions to Belize to provide health care services to the local people and assisted in establishing a scholarship program for African women seeking a bachelor's degree in theology in Nairobi, Kenya. Additionally, Maria helped raise funds for the International Health Partners, Tanzania.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Marie Soldo. Her commitment to the people of southern Nevada is truly commendable, as is her efforts on behalf of the local populations in developing nations. I congratulate her on service and wish her the best of luck in her much deserved retirement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 15

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine U.S. credit markets, focusing on the impact on the cost and availability of student loans.

SD-538

Finance

To hold hearings to examine tax reform, focusing on fundamentals for advancement.

SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine ending abuses and improving working conditions for tomato workers.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine nuclear terrorism, focusing on confronting the challenges of the day after.

SD-342

Appropriations

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine challenges to providing and paying for long-term care.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (the "Geneva Protocol III"), adopted at Geneva on December 8, 2005, and signed by the United States on that date; the Amendment to Article 1 of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (the "CCW Amendment"); and the CCW Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (the "CCW Protocol V") (Treaty Doc.

109-10), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (the Convention) and, for accession, The Hague Protocol, concluded on May 14, 1954, and entered into force on August 7, 1956 with accompanying report from the Department of State (Treaty Doc. 106-01), and protocols to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects: the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II or the Amended Mines Protocol); the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III or the Incendiary Weapons Protocol); and the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) (Treaty Doc. 105-01).

SD-419

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 570 and H.R. 1011, bills to designate additional National Forest System lands in the State of Virginia as wilderness or a wilderness study area, to designate the Kimberling Creek Potential Wilderness Area for eventual incorporation in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness, to establish the Seng Mountain and Bear Creek Scenic Areas, to provide for the development of trail plans for the wilderness areas and scenic areas, S. 758 and H.R. 1311, bills to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Alta-Hualapai Site to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the development of a cancer treatment facility, S. 1680, to provide for the inclusion of certain non-Federal land in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Alaska, S. 2109, to designate certain Federal lands in Riverside County, California, as wilderness, to designate certain river segments in Riverside County as a wild, scenic, or recreational river, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, S. 2124, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery, and S. 2581, to designate as wilderness additional National Forest System lands in the Monongahela National Forest in the State of West Virginia.

SD-366

3 p.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine pharmaceuticals in the nation's water, focusing on assessing potential risks and actions to address this issue.

SD-406

3:15 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine the 2010 Decennial Census, focusing on automation and information technology in order to improve census coverage, accuracy, and efficiency.

SD-342

APRIL 16

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense medical programs.

SD-192

9:45 a.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Education, focusing on teacher quality.

SD-138

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine U.S. credit markets, focusing on proposals to mitigate foreclosures and restore liquidity to the mortgage markets.

SD-538

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine National Security Letters, focusing on the need for greater accountability and oversight.

SD-226

Environment and Public Works

Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation and the global economy.

SD-406

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SD-124

Judiciary

Crime and Drugs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine violence and exploitation in the 21st century, focusing on solutions for protecting our children.

SD-226

Appropriations

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Energy.

SD-138

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine affordable housing opportunities, focusing on reforming the housing voucher program.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 on military beneficiary organizations regarding the quality of life of Active, Reserve, and retired military personnel and their members, and the future years defense program.

SR-232A

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the impact of the credit market on small businesses.

SR-428A

3 p.m.

Appropriations
Financial Services and General Govern-
ment Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed
budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for
the Internal Revenue Service.

SD-192

Aging

To hold hearings to examine caring for
the elderly, focusing on how to support
those on the frontline.

SD-562

APRIL 17

10 a.m.

Appropriations
Military Construction and Veterans' Af-
fairs, and Related Agencies Sub-
committee
To hold hearings to examine proposed
budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for
Military Construction.

SD-124

10:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Na-
tional Indian Gaming Commission.

SD-562

2 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the United
States Bureau of Reclamation, focus-
ing on issues associated with aging
water resource infrastructure.

SD-366

APRIL 23

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine
an update on the Veterans Affairs and
the Department of Defense cooperation
and collaboration.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine phantom
traffic.

SR-253

APRIL 24

10:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 2688, to
improve the protections afforded under
Federal law to consumers from con-
taminated seafood by directing the
Secretary of Commerce to establish a
program, in coordination with other
appropriate Federal agencies, to
strengthen activities for ensuring that
seafood sold or offered for sale to the
public in or affecting interstate com-
merce is fit for human consumption,
S.J. Res. 28, disapproving the rule sub-
mitted by the Federal Communications
Commission with respect to broadcast
media ownership, S. 2607, to make a
technical correction to section 3009 of
the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, H.R.
3985, to amend title 49, United States
Code, to direct the Secretary of Trans-
portation to register a person pro-
viding transportation by an over-the-
road bus as a motor carrier of pas-
sengers only if the person is willing
and able to comply with certain acces-

sibility requirements in addition to
other existing requirements, H.R. 802,
to amend the Act to Prevent Pollution
from Ships to implement MARPOL
Annex VI, and the nomination of Rob-
ert A. Sturgell, of Maryland, to be Ad-
ministrator of the Federal Aviation
Administration.

SR-253

APRIL 30

10 a.m.

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine electronic
voting systems, focusing on top-to-bot-
tom inquiries by Secretaries of State.

SR-301

MAY 7

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending
benefits legislation.

SR-418

MAY 21

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending
health care legislation.

SR-418

POSTPONEMENTS

APRIL 15

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 2438, to
repeal certain provisions of the Federal
Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

SD-366